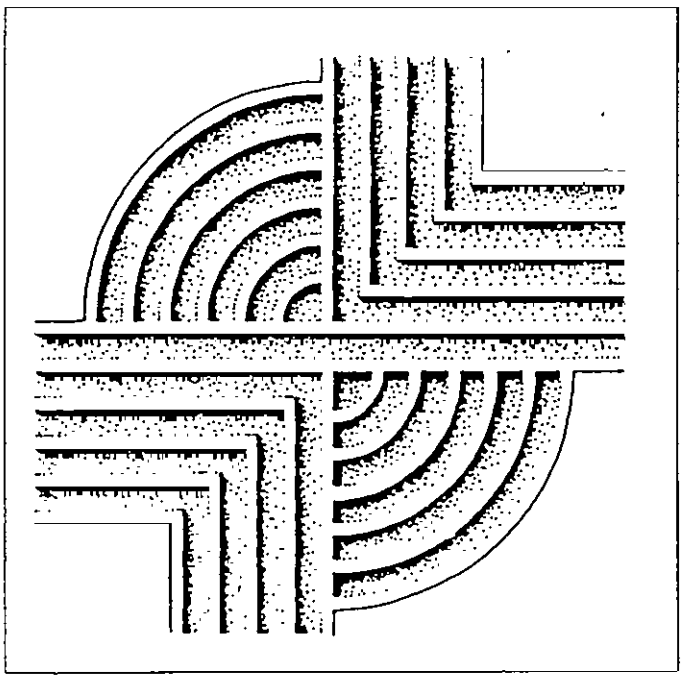
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF CRESCENT PLANTATION, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 223

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF CRESCENT PLANTATION, BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Chicora Research Contribution 223

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on a reconnaissance level archaeological survey of an approximately 650 acre tract known as Crescent Plantation. Also incorporated into the review is approximately 150 acres of adjoining property which forms a portion of Trimblestone Plantation. The property is situated north of Fording Island Road (now known as U.S. 278) between Rose Hill to the west and lands primarily held by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to the east. To the north the tracts primarily front marsh of Sawmill Creek and the Colleton River.

The study was conducted at the request of Centex Homes in compliance with a Beaufort County Ordinance (Section 6.5 of Article VI of the Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance) which requires an archaeological evaluation as part of the land planning process. The current level of investigations is limited to an archaeological and historical reconnaissance in order to determine the probable nature of cultural resources on the study tract.

Our background research included contacting the South Carolina Department of Archives and History with a request for information concerning any National Register of Historic Places buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area, as well as the results of any structures surveys which may have been completed in the study area. No response has yet been received. We also checked the master site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology for any previously recorded archaeological sites in the project area. Although a number of sites had been recorded for the adjacent Belfair tract to the west and northwest, no sites were known for the study tracts.

In addition to utilizing our in-house documentation, including Chicora's previous cartographic survey of Beaufort County, we also conducted title search for the tracts at the Beaufort County Register of Mesne Conveyances, as well as additional historical research at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and cartographic research at the Thomas Cooper Map Repository.

These studies revealed that the tract is a composite of several historic parcels, as well as documenting that the history of the area is very confused, primarily by the loss of Beaufort County land records pre-dating the Civil War. We did, however, identify at least two major historic sites anticipated to be on the survey tract.

Our field investigation found that the bulk of the survey tract is heavily wooded. Although there are several old fields, these are largely grown up in grass, pines, or second growth. There were few areas amenable to successful pedestrian survey. The field methodology include four approaches, each with specific goals.

The first was an examination of several marsh edge areas, with the goal being to evaluate the potential for marsh edge shell middens. One potential area was identified, although no subsurface testing was conducted to verify the existence of a site. Much of the tract exhibits a low marsh edge not typically conducive for Native American occupation. These same low, gradually sloping areas fronting on vast expanses of marsh are also not anticipated to exhibit high probability for historic settlements.

The second approach was an examination of the areas identified in the historic research. One was anticipated to be a major plantation development at an area of "high ground and deep water" which had been revealed in our previous cartographic study. The other was an interior settlement thought to date from the same period. Both sites were identified based on surface scatters.

The third approach was a judgmental examination of interior areas at the edge of marsh sloughs. These areas are often associated with Native American sites. This reconnaissance identified two such sites on the study tracts.

The fourth and final survey approach was an examination of interior fire plowed areas associated with low, poorly drained soils. These are typically expected to produce a low incidence of both historic and prehistoric sites. No sites were found in these area. Nevertheless, we know from research on the S.C. Department of Natural Resources tract to the east that Native American sites can be found on isolated high ground areas.

As a result of our investigations on these tracts, seven archaeological sties have been identified and recorded with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as 38BU1711 through 38BU1717. Although reconnaissance surveys are not suitable for assessing the National Register eligibility of these sites, several are very likely significant and worthy of either protection in place or more extensive study. It is also likely that additional prehistoric sites will be encountered on the property.

As a result, we are recommending that additional historical research be conducted for the survey tract in an effort to more fully reconstruct its ownership. In addition, we recommend that the tract be subjected to an intensive archaeological survey. We have incorporated an overview map of the tract, providing a tentative assessment of site probability and survey recommendations for the different areas.

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INTRODUCTION

The reconnaissance level investigation of the Crescent and Trimblestone plantations development tract was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Jay Thrower, Area Manager of Centex Homes, Coastal Carolina South. The tract consists of two distinct parcels — about 650 acres known as Crescent Plantation and about 148 acres which was cut off of Trimblestone Plantation. Both are situated north of U.S. 278 and the Town of Bluffton, in Colleton River area just before crossing over to Hilton Head Island (Figure 1).

This is an area of exceptional development. To the west are the Belfair and Rose Hill tracts. To the east there are a number of smaller housing developments and what might be referred to as "strip malls." Also to the east of the study area is a large tract owned by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, part of which is a Heritage Trust Area.

The study tract bordered to the west and along a portion of the south by other developments. Much of the southern boundary runs along U.S. 278, previously known as Fording Island Road. A small portion of the northern boundary is also on an existing development (known as Belfair), while most fronts Sawmill Creek marsh. The eastern boundary includes a small housing project along U.S. 278, portions of Trimbleton Plantation, and the Heritage Trust lands of Victoria Bluff (Figure 2).

Originally the entire tract was likely dominated by mixed hardwoods, particularly live oak and palmetto on the higher soils. These areas would likely have been very similar to maritime forests. On the lower, inland soils there were likely areas of what today are called "Florida Scrub" — pine flatwoods which often have slight depressions and ridges characterized by a dense woody pocosin understory. There would also have been some limited areas of wetland swamps with tupelo, bay, and ash.

Although much modified by extensive agriculture, at least some of this more native vegetation is still suggested. There are areas of standing water swamp, as well as remnant areas of maritime forest. Much of the tract exhibits very dense mixed hardwood and pine vegetation (Figure 3). Dominating the causal observer's perception of the property, however, are the areas of previous agriculture which today are largely in second growth pine and grass (Figure 4).

Five soil series dominate the study tract and three are poorly to very poorly drained. The Baratari, Polawana, and Rosedhue soils all have at least seasonal water tables within 0 to 1.0 foot of the surface. The Polawana and Rosedhue soils are either frequently or commonly flooded. These soils exhibit very reduced soil profiles because of saturation (Stuck 1980:59, 79-81). It is not common to identify either historic or prehistoric sites on these soils, usually because of the poor drainage and frequent flooding. Problematic, however, are small areas or "islands" of better drained soils which do support occupation in the midst of these poorly drained soils.

Also present on the tracts are Seewee soils, characterized as somewhat poorly drained and exhibiting an Ap horizon of dark brown sand overlying A12 horizon of dark grayish brown sand (Stuck 1980:83). The Wando soils on the tract are excessively drained and have a dark brown A horizon overlying a C horizon of brown to pale yellow sand (Stuck 1980:85). These tend to exhibit fairly high site densities.

The topography of the tract appears fairly level at first, but closer inspection reveals considerable diversity, largely the result of numerous drainages. The headwaters of a small slough are found in the northwest corner of the study tract and another drainage cuts through the

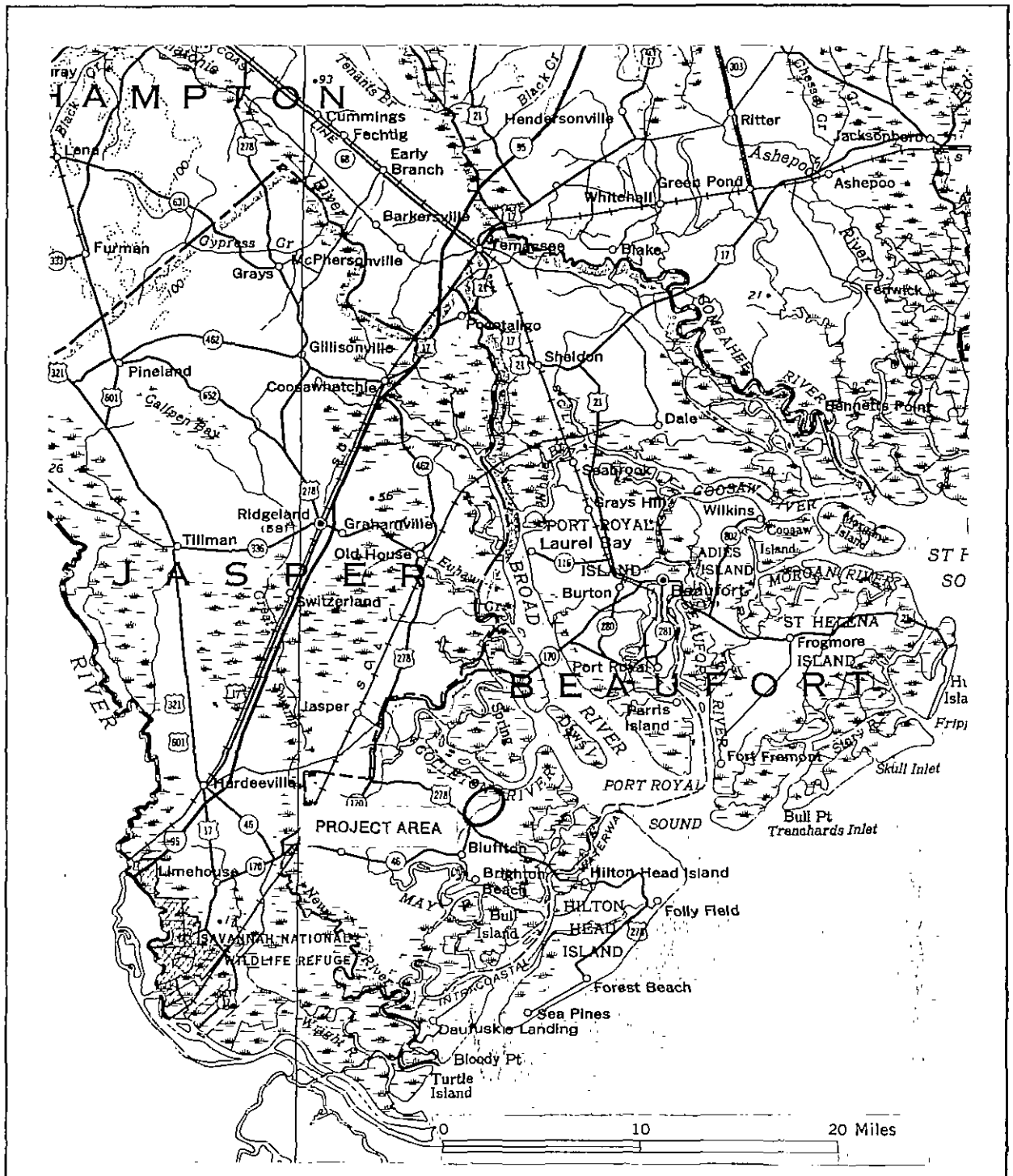

Figure 1. Vicinity of Beaufort County and the project area (base maps is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000).

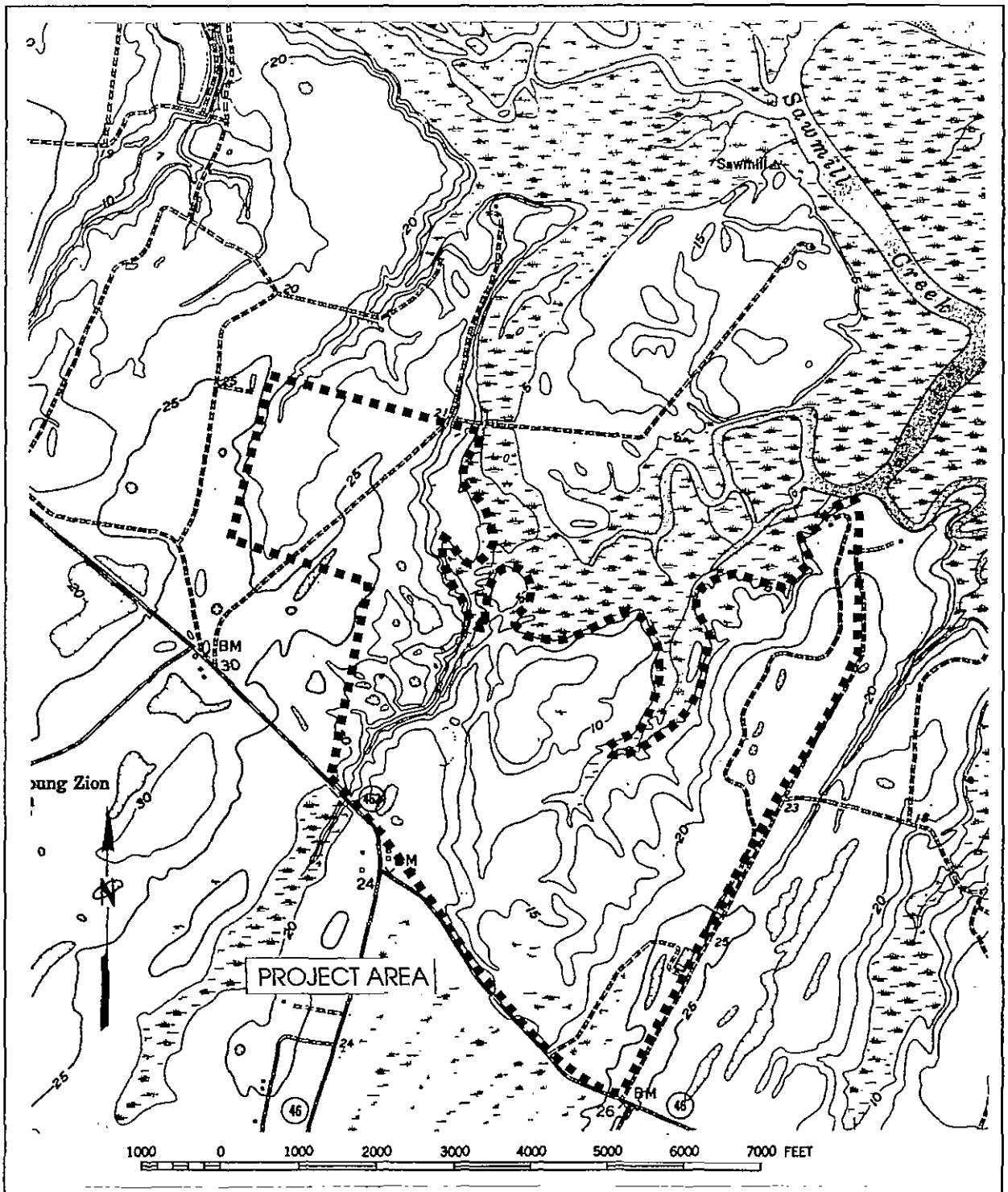

Figure 2. A portion of the USGS Spring Island 7.5' topographic map showing the project area.

Figure 3. Dense woods characterizing much of the Crescent Plantation tract.

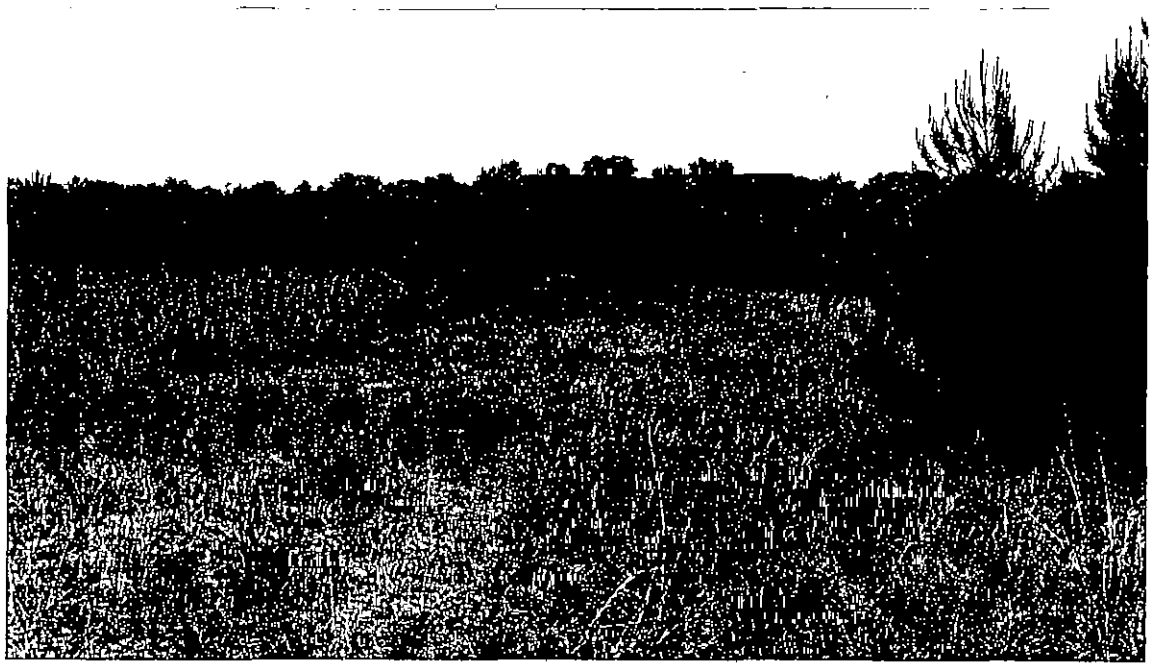

Figure 4. Second growth fields in the Crescent Plantation tract.

middle of the tract, crossing US 278. Between these two drainages the tract has elevations of about 25 feet above mean sea level (AMSL), with elevations falling off to the northwest and east.

Although the topography rises up from the central drainage to the east, the area to the immediate east tends to be low and, in areas, very wet. Elevations in this central area range from around 10 to 15 feet AMSL. A third drainage is found in the eastern third of the parcel, also running southward from Sawmill Creek. East of this drainage the ground rises more noticeably to about 20 feet AMSL.

Chicora Foundation was contacted by Mr. Jay Thrower with Centex Homes and Mr. Ben Jones with Thomas and Hutton Engineering on May 12, 1997. Representing the property owners, they requested a proposal for a reconnaissance level archaeological survey. This study was requested in compliance with the Beaufort County Archaeological and Historic Impact Assessment Ordinance, but there had been no previous contact with the County. Chicora responded to Mr. Thrower's RFP with a proposal on May 14. This was accepted by Centex Homes that same day. The reconnaissance level investigation was conducted on May 22, 1997.

Previous Investigations

Although we were requested only to undertaken an archaeological reconnaissance of the school tract, we did contact the South Carolina Department of Archives and History on May 14, 1997 and request a check of their master topographic maps to locate any NRHP buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area. In addition, we requested a check to determine the results of any structures surveys which may have been completed in the study area. At the time of this report, we have not yet received a response to our inquiry.

In addition, Ms. Rachel Brinson-Marrs of the Foundation staff examined the State Site Files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology to confirm that no archaeological sites had been previously identified on the tract.

We also examined the previously conducted cartographic survey of Beaufort County (Hacker and Trinkley 1992), discovering that the proposed tract was thought to contain a settlement consisting of three structures plus one row of three additional buildings (Hacker and Trinkley 1992:59). This is likely a nineteenth century plantation settlement including a main house, outbuildings, and a slave settlement.

Perhaps the best known historic research for the area is H.A.M. Smith's work on Sir John Colleton's Okeetee or Devil's Elbow Barony (Figure 5). Colleton was granted the 12,000 acres in 1718 and by 1726 he had devised the parcel to his second son, Peter Colleton (Smith 1988:87). At Peter's death the barony was passed to his brother, the Honorable John Colleton, who devised the property to his son, John. It was apparently during the 1750s that the property was initially developed. By the time of the American Revolution there is good evidence that Colleton was grazing large quantities of cattle on the tract, and possibly growing some indigo (Smith 1988:88).

Smith reports that before Sir John Colleton's death in 1777 he had disposed of slightly over 6,000 acres in tracts ranging from just under 300 acres to nearly 1,700 acres to William Fripp, Thomas Farr, Benjamin Walls (apparently the area surrounding the Town of Bluffton), James Stanyarne, Edmund Bellinger, and George Hipp. The remainder of the barony went to his only daughter, Louisa Carolina Colleton, who married Admiral Richard Graves of the British Navy.

Although Louisa Graves maintained the parcel through her life, it seems likely that it had been divided into more manageable plantations. Prior to her death she, "disposed of a part of the barony lying on Colleton river to Benjamin Guerard, which part seems afterward to have become the property of Mr. William Wigg Barnwell by whom it was called 'Trimbleston'" (Smith 1988:89). At her death the remainder was divided up and sold 800 acres called Rose Hill to James Kirk, 946 acres known as the Hunting Island tract to James Kirk in 1828, 1,370 acres known as the Camp tract to Mrs. Pinckney and Mrs. Izard in 1828, 1,055 acres known as Foot Point to John

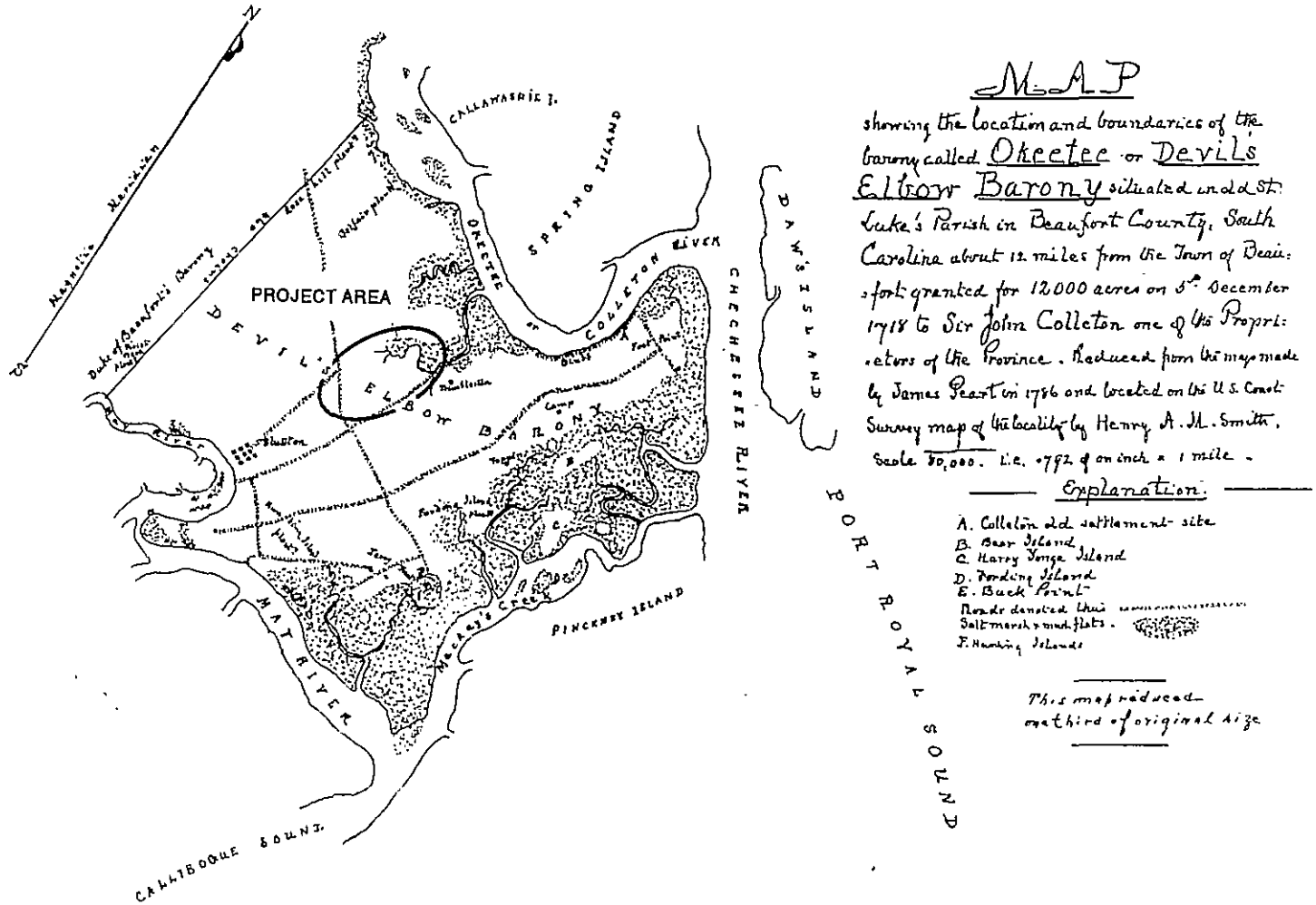

Figure 5. Drawing of the Okeetee or Okatie Barony by H.A.M. Smith.

Stoney in 1829 (see McCrady Plats 4479 and 4560 for this area), 942 acres known as the Ferry tract to John Stoney in 1829, 750 acres known as the Fording Island tract to W.J. Grayson in 1829, and in 1829 709 acres known as the Toppin tract to Miss Pinckney (Smith 1988:89-90).

Although based on a 1786 plan, H.A.M. Smith's map fails to provide much detail. What is, however, immediately apparent is that there is no obvious early plantation settlement in the project area.

The area to the west, known as Belfair, has been surveyed by Brockington and Associates and that report is available from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. As a result of that work 23 sites were identified, including 15 prehistoric sites, three historic sites, and five multi-component sites. Ten of these sites were assessed as either eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (Markham 1994: 29).

The closest site to the project area is 38BU1415, a prehistoric site identified as potentially eligible. This site measures about 455 feet by 878 feet and artifacts, primarily Middle Woodland sherds, were recovered from the plow zone. The survey study suggests that the site may have served as a base camp with subsistence strategy focusing on the nearby marsh (Markham 1994:57; see also Adams et al. 1992).

To the east of the survey tract some level of investigation has occurred on the Heritage Trust property, Foot Point Plantation, and the Victoria Bluff tract (also known as the Chicago Bridge and Iron tract). The earliest study was that by Widmer (1976) who surveyed a portion of the Victoria Bluff tract for a proposed industrial facility. His work identified a series of primarily Middle Woodland shell middens in the area. He reported that the sites fell into three categories: single shell heaps smaller than 30 feet in diameter, small clusters (2-6) of shell heaps, and multiple shell heaps (over 20) (Widmer 1976:29). Unfortunately, the Chicago Bridge and Iron tract was stripped of soil before the survey, so while sites were fairly easy to identify and artifacts were plentiful, site integrity was dramatically affected.

Extensive survey was conducted by Chicora Foundation on Foot Point Plantation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, resulting in the identification and testing of a number of shell midden sites (see Figure 6). About the same time, limited site testing was conducted on a Late Woodland St. Catherines shell midden (38BU347) found on the Heritage Trust property (Trinkley 1981:73-88). A radiocarbon sample from that site has been dated to A.D. 1380. Perhaps most significantly, this testing and survey work tends to associate these Middle Woodland sites with somewhat better drained soils on the edge of poorly drained soils that may have been ponds or sloughs. The work also revealed that better drained soils could occur as small "islands" in a "sea" of very poorly drained soil.

In addition, a St. Catherines burial mound from the same area was examined and mapped (Trinkley 1981:Figures 12; this study, Figure 7). This site suggests that many, perhaps all, of the small shell midden sites in the immediate area may represent hamlets, seasonal camps, or perhaps even macrobands within the influence sphere of this mound.

The previous work in the project area reveals a tremendous potential for both historic and prehistoric sites

Prehistoric Synthesis

There have been a number of studies prepared for the Beaufort area, and Derting et al. (1991:47-77) list 225 in their bibliography of South Carolina archaeology. There are a variety of excellent archaeological studies for the general project area which should be consulted (see especially Trinkley and Adams 1994 for an overview of previous research and Anderson et al. (1996) for a synthesis of current thought regarding the Woodland Period along the Carolina coast.

Paleoindian and Archaic Periods

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally

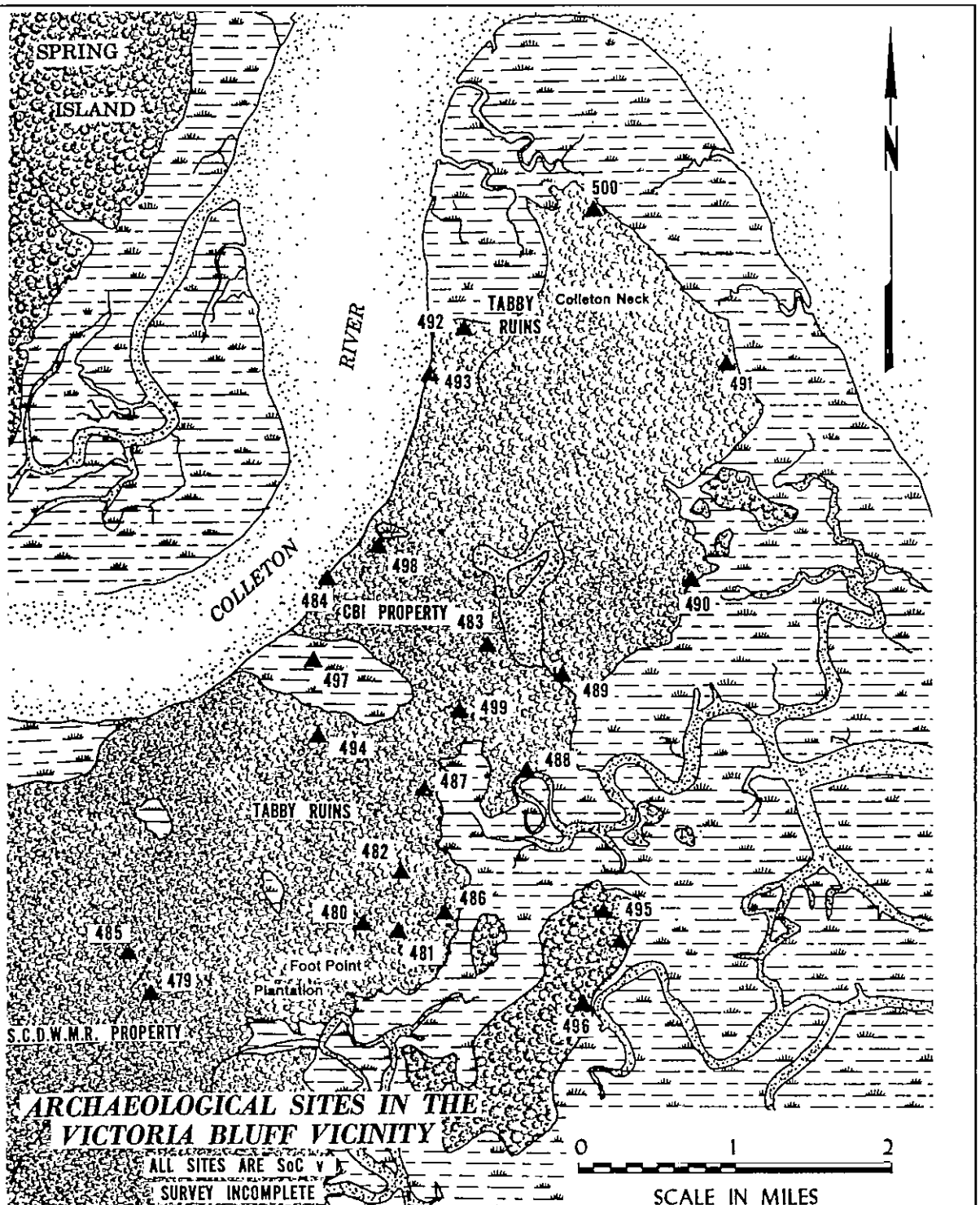

Figure 6. Archaeological sites identified in the vicinity of Victoria Bluff and Foot Point Plantation (adapted from Trinkley 1981b:Figure 11).

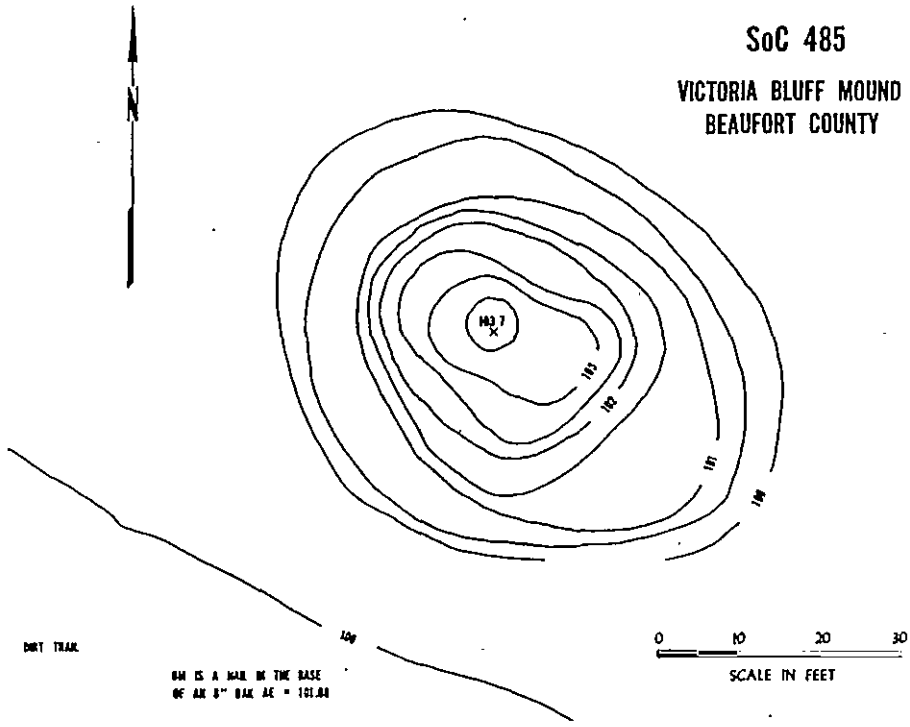

Figure 7. Contour map of the Victoria Bluff Burial Mound (adapted from Trinkley 1981b:Figure 15).

scrapers; and drill (Coe 1964; Goodyear et al. 1989; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Sea level during much of this period is expected to have been as much as 65 feet lower than present, so many sites may be inundated (Flint 1971). Unfortunately, little is known about Paleoindian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally archaeologists agree that the Paleoindian groups were at a band level of society, were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coast. Archaic period assemblages are rare in the Sea Island region, although the sea level is anticipated to have been within 13 feet of its present stand by the beginning of the succeeding Woodland period (Lepionka et al. 1983:10). Brooks and Scurry note that:

> Archaic period sites, when contrasted with the subsequent Woodland period, are typically small, relatively few in number and contain low densities of archaeological material. The data may indicate that the inter-riverine zone was utilized by Archaic populations characterized by small group size, high mobility, and wide ranging exploitative

patterns (Brooks and Scurry 1978:44).

Alternatively, the general sparsity of Archaic sites in the coastal zone may be the result of a more attractive environment inland adjacent to the floodplain swamps of major drainages. Of course, this is not necessarily an alternative explanation, since coastal Archaic sites may represent only a small segment in the total settlement system.

Early Woodland

The earliest phase of the Woodland period (see Figure 8) is called Stallings, after the type site excavated by the Cosgroves in 1929 (Claflin 1931). These "Stallings Island people" produced a rich cultural assemblage of bone and antler work, polished stone items, grooved and perforated "net sinkers" or steatite disks, stone tools (including projectile points, knives, scrapers, and cruciform drills), and fiber tempered pottery (see also Williams 1968). It was over a decade before the typological significance of the Stallings ware was recognized and a formal type description was offered (Fairbanks 1942; Griffin 1943). The definitive feature of this pottery is its large quantity of fiber, now identified as Spanish Moss (Simpkins and Scoville 1981), included in the paste prior to firing.

The elaborate Savannah River drainage sites such as Stallings Island, Fennel Hill, Rabbit Mount, and Bilbo, are all characterized by large quantities of either fresh water mussels or tidal oysters, large quantities of artifacts, and abundant features. These middens, however, represent only one aspect of the Stallings settlement system. Another portion of that system is represented by Stallings sites which evidence little shell. While many of these are sparse scatters, such as Clear Mount (Stoltman 1974) and Pinckney Island (Trinkley 1981b), some evidence intensive occupation with features and a rich cultural assemblage, such as the Love (38AL10; Trinkley 1974) and Fish Haul (38BU805; Trinkley 1986) sites.

At the Fish Haul site a Stallings phase "D"-shaped structure containing about 90 square feet of floor area has been identified (Trinkley 1986:145-147) and Stoltman (1974:51-54) recovered a lean-to structure at Rabbit Mount. The function of essentially non-shell midden sites such as Love and Fish Haul is only partially understood at present, although shellfish seasonality and ethnobotanical studies (Claassen 1986; Lawrence 1986; Trinkley 1986) are beginning to suggest late fall and winter occupation. These may represent early sites when the subsistence base was diffuse, prior to intensive riverine and estuarine exploitation. Alternatively, and more likely, they may represent a seasonal round in the Stallings settlement system. Riverine shellfish may have been gathered in the fall when the Savannah River and its tributaries were low and clear, while other resources away from the river were exploited during the period of high discharge in the late winter and spring (Anderson and Schuldenrein 1985:13). Additional work within the Savannah drainage is necessary to understand more fully the relationship between large shell middens, dense non-shell upland and coastal sites, and sparse upland and coastal "scatters."

The following Thom's Creek phase dates as early as 2220±350 B.C. (UGA-584) from Spanish Mount in Charleston County (Sutherland 1974) and continues to at least 935±175 B.C. (UGA-2901), based on a date from the Lighthouse Point Shell Ring, also in Charleston County (Trinkley 1980b:191-192). The Thom's Creek phase is characterized by an artifact assemblage almost identical to that of Stallings sites. The only major differences include the replacement of fiber tempering with sand, or a clay not requiring tempering, and the gradual reduction of projectile point size.

Thom's Creek pottery, first typed by Griffin (1945), consists of sandy paste pottery decorated with the motifs common to the Stallings series, including punctations (reed and shell), finger pinching, simple stamping, incising, and very late in the phase, finger smoothed (Trinkley 1980a). Investigations at the Lighthouse Point and Stratton Place shell rings, stratigraphic studies at Spanish Mount and Fig Island, radiocarbon dates from Lighthouse Point and Venning Creek, and the study of surface collections from a number of

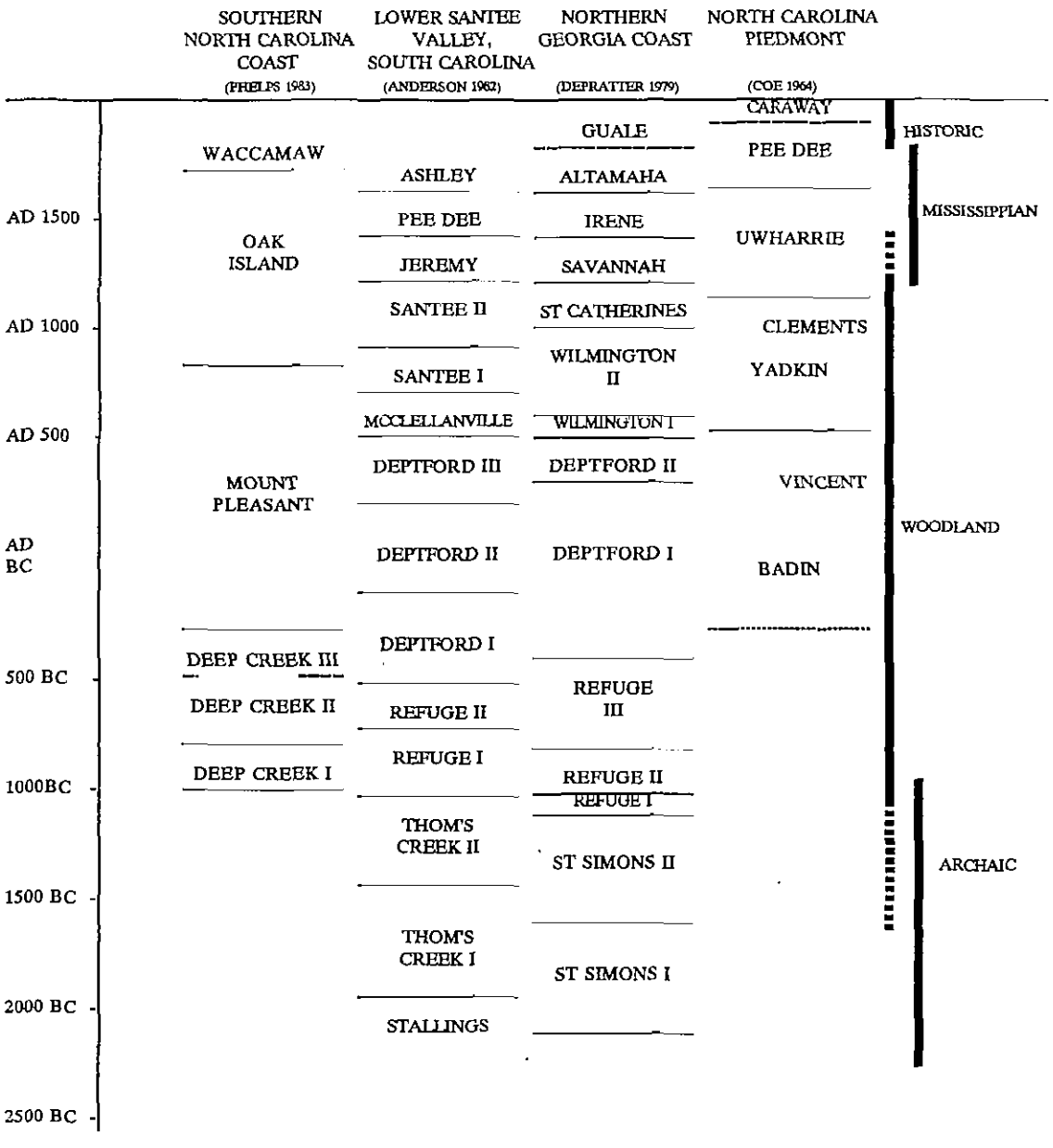

Figure 8. Woodland Period phases in the South Carolina locality.

sites, have suggested a temporal ordering of the Thom's Creek series. Reed punctated pottery appears to be the oldest, followed by the shell punctated and finger pinched motifs. Late in the Thom's Creek phase, perhaps by 1000 B.C., there is the addition of Thom's Creek Finger Smoothed (Trinkley 1983a:44). Vessel forms include deep, straight sided jars and shallow conoidal bowls. Lip treatments are simple, and coiling fractures are common. Firing of the Thom's Creek vessels is certainly better than that evidenced for Stallings, but there continues to be abundant incompletely oxidized specimens.

Like the Stallings settlement pattern, Thom's Creek sites are found in a variety of environmental zones and take on several forms. Thom's Creek sites are found throughout the South Carolina Coastal Zone, Coastal Plain, and up to the Fall Line. The sites are found into the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but do not appear to extend southward into Georgia. There appears to be strong concentration of Thom's Creek sites in the Santee River drainage and the central South Carolina coast (see Anderson 1975:184).

In the Coastal Plain drainage of the Savannah River there is a change of settlement, and probably subsistence, away from the riverine focus found in the Stallings Phase (Hanson 1982:13; Stoltman 1974:235-236). Thom's Creek sites are more commonly found in the upland areas and lack evidence of intensive shellfish collection. In the Coastal Zone large, irregular shell middens; small middens with only sparse shell; and large "shell rings" are found in the Thom's Creek settlement system.

Limited testing has been conducted at one small Thom's Creek non-shell midden on Sol Legare Island (38CH779) in Charleston County, South Carolina (Trinkley 1984). The site evidenced very limited reliance on shellfish and faunal remains, with the bulk of the food remains consisting of large mammals. Excavations also identified a portion of a probable Thom's Creek post structure situated about 180 feet inland from the marsh edge.

Excavations at other Coastal Zone Thom's Creek sites includes the work by Sutherland (1973, 1974) at the Spanish Mount shell midden (38CH62). While this work has never been completely published, the site appears to represent a seasonally occupied camp with a diffuse subsistence base, including reliance on shellfish, floral material, fish, and mammals.

By far the most work has been conducted at Thom's Creek phase shell rings (see Trinkley 1980b, 1985). These sites are circular middens about 130 to 300 feet in diameter, 2 to 6 feet in height, and 40 feet in width at their bases, with clear interiors. These doughnut-shaped accumulations were formed as small mounds, arranged around an open ground area, and gradually blended together. The ring itself is composed of varying proportions of shell, animal bone, pottery, soil, and other artifacts. These shell rings were apparently mundane occupation sites for fairly large social units which lived on the ring, disposed of garbage underfoot, and used the clear interiors as areas for communal activities. The sites further suggest relatively permanent, stable village life as early as 1600 B.C., with a subsistence base oriented toward large and small mammals, fish, shellfish, and hickory nut resources (Trinkley 1985).

Following Stallings and Thom's Creek are the Refuge and Deptford phases, both strongly associated with the Georgia sequence and the Savannah drainage (DePratter 1979; Lepionka et al. 1983; Williams 1968). The Refuge Phase, dated from 1070±115 B.C. (QC-784) to 510±100 B.C. (QC-785), is found primarily along the South Carolina coast from the Savannah drainage as far north as the Santee River (Williams 1968:208). Anderson (1975:184) further notes an apparent concentration of Refuge sites in the Coastal Plain, particularly along the Santee River.

The Refuge series pottery is similar in many ways to the preceding Thom's Creek wares. The paste is compact and sandy or gritty, while surface treatments include sloppy simple stamped, dentate stamped, and random punctate decorations (see DePratter 1979:115-123; Williams 1968:198-208). Anderson et al. note that these typologies are "marred by a lack of reference to the Thom's

Creek series" (Anderson et al. 1982:265) and that the Refuge Punctate and Incised types are indistinguishable from Thom's Creek wares. Peterson (1971:153) characterizes Refuge as both a degeneration of the preceding Thom's Creek series and also as a bridge to the succeeding Deptford series.

It is difficult to reconstruct the subsistence base, although the sites suggest small, seasonal camps for small groups (Trinkley 1982). The settlement fragmentation, which began at the end of the Thom's Creek phase, around 1000 B.C., probably relates to the increase in sea level, from a Thom's Creek phase low of 10 feet below the current high marsh surface at 1200 B.C. to a high of about 3 feet below the current high marsh surface at 950 B.C. (Colquhoun et al. 1980; Brooks et al. 1989). This increasing sea level drowned the tidal marshes (and sites) on which the Thom's Creek people relied. The following Refuge phase evidences the fragmentation necessary when the environment which gave rise to large sedentary populations disappeared. Hanson (1982:21-23), based on Savannah River data, suggests that subsistence stress present during the Thom's Creek phase may have resulted in an expansion of the settlement system into diverse environmental settings. It seems likely, however, that the development of mature, upland tributaries was also essential ingredient in this process (see Sassaman et al. 1989). This same "splintering" is observed on the South Carolina coast.

The Deptford culture takes its name from the type site located east of Savannah, Georgia, which was excavated in the mid-1930s (Caldwell 1943:12-16). Deptford phase sites are best recognized by the presence of fine to course sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. This pottery is typically in the form of a cylindrical vessel with a conoidal base. The flat bottomed bowl with tetrapodal supports found at Deptford sites along the Florida Gulf coast (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:79) is very rare in South Carolina. Other Deptford phase pottery styles include cord marking, simple stamping, a complicated stamping which resembles early Swift Creek, and a geometric stamping which consists of a series of carved triangles or diamonds with interior dots (see Anderson et al. 1982:277-293; DePratter 1979).

The Deptford technology is little better known than that of the preceding Refuge phase. Shell tools are uncommon, bone tools are "extremely rare" (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:77), and stone tools are rare on Coastal Zone sites. All of this indicates to some researchers that "wood must have been worked into a variety of tool types" (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:75). One type of stone tool associated with South Carolina Deptford sites is a very small, stemmed projectile point tentatively described as "Deptford Stemmed" (Trinkley 1980c:20-23). This point is the culmination of the Savannah River Stemmed reduction seen in the Thom's Creek and Refuge phases. Also found at Deptford sites are "medium-sized triangular points," probably similar to the Yadkin Triangular point (Coe 1964:45, 47, 49; Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:75-76).

Perhaps of even greater interest is the co-occurrence of the larger triangular points (such as Badin and Yadkin) with smaller triangular forms (such as Caraway) traditionally attributed to the Late Woodland and South Appalachian Mississippian periods. This situation has been reported at Coastal Plain sites (Blanton et al. 1986:107), Savannah River sites (Sassaman et al. 1989:157), and Coastal Zone sites (Trinkley 1990). Blanton et al. (1986) suggest that these point types were used at the same time, but perhaps for different tasks.

The traditional view of an estuarine Deptford adaptation with minor interior occupations must be re-evaluated based on the Savannah River drainage work of Brooks and Hanson (1987) and Sassaman et al. (1989:293-295) who suggest larger residential base camps and foraging zones along the Savannah River, coupled with smaller, household residences and foraging zones in the uplands along small tributaries.

Throughout much of the Coastal Zone and Coastal Plain north of Charleston, a somewhat different cultural manifestation is observed, related to the "Northern Tradition" (e.g., Caldwell 1958). This recently identified assemblage has been

termed Deep Creek and was first identified from northern North Carolina sites (Phelps 1983). The Deep Creek assemblage is characterized by pottery with medium to coarse sand inclusions and surface treatments of cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing (see Trinkley 1987). Much of this material has been previously designated as the Middle Woodland "Cape Fear" pottery originally typed by South (1960). The Deep Creek wares date from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina, but may date later in South Carolina, based on two radiocarbon dates of 120±130 B.C. (QC-1358) and A.D. 210±110 (QC-1357). The Deep Creek settlement and subsistence systems are poorly known, but appear to be very similar to those identified with the Deptford phase.

The Deep Creek assemblage strongly resembles Deptford both typologically and temporally. It appears this northern tradition of cord and fabric impressions was introduced and gradually accepted by indigenous South Carolina populations. During this time some groups continued making only the older carved paddle-stamped pottery, while others mixed the two styles, and still others (and later all) made exclusively cord and fabric stamped wares.

Middle Woodland

Although the Deptford phase is discussed as part of the Early Woodland, many authors place the phase intermediate between the Early and Middle Woodland (see, for example, Anderson et al. 1982:28, 250). Such an approach is not unreasonable, because Deptford exhibits considerable temporal range and cultural adaptations which are more characteristically Middle Woodland (see also Anderson 1985:53). The Deptford phase, however, is still part of the early carved paddle stamped tradition which is replaced by the posited northern intrusion of wrapped paddle stamping during the Middle Woodland. Clearly the Deep Creek pottery, at the same time period as Deptford, is part of this "Northern Tradition," yet the Deep Creek, on temporal grounds, is considered Early Woodland by Phelps (1983:17, 29). This is meant simply to indicate that the transition from Early to Middle Woodland is not as clear as one might wish.

The Middle Woodland in South Carolina is characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. On the southern coast it is associated with the Wilmington phase, while on the northern coast it is recognized by the presence of Hanover, McClellanville or Santee, and Mount Pleasant assemblages. Wilmington and Hanover may be viewed as regional varieties of the same ceramic tradition. The pottery is characterized almost solely by its crushed sherd (perhaps with grog as well) temper which makes up 30 to 40% of the paste and which ranges in size from 3 to 10 mm. Wilmington was first described by Caldwell and Waring (Williams 1968:113-116) from coastal Georgia work, while the Hanover description was offered by South (1960), based on a survey of the Southeastern coast of North Carolina (with incursions into South Carolina). The Wilmington phase was seen by Waring (Williams 1968:221) as intrusive from the Carolina coast, but there is considerable evidence for the inclusion of Deptford traits in the Wilmington series. For example, Caldwell and McCann (1940:n.p.) noted that, "the Wilmington complex proper contains all of the main kinds of decoration which occur in the Deptford complex with the probable exception of Deptford Linear Checkstamped" (see also Anderson et al. 1982:275). Consequently, surface treatments of cord marking, check stamping, simple stamping, and fabric impressing may be found with sherd tempered paste.

Sherd tempered Wilmington and Hanover wares are found from at least the Chowan River in North Carolina southward onto the Georgia coast. Anderson (1975:187) has found the Hanover series evenly distributed over the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, although it appears slightly more abundant north of the Edisto River. The heartland may be along the inner Coastal Plain north of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Radiocarbon dates for Wilmington and Hanover range from 135±85 B.C. (UM-1916) from site 38BK134 to A.D. 1120±100 (GX-2284) from a "Wilmington House" at the Charles Towne Landing site, 38CH1. Most dates, however, cluster from A.D. 400 to 900; some researchers prefer a date range of about 200 B.C. to A.D. 500 (Anderson et al. 1982:276).

Largely contemporaneous with the sherd tempered wares are what have been termed the Mount Pleasant, McClellanville, and Santee series. The Mount Pleasant series has been developed by Phelps from work along the northeastern North Carolina coast (Phelps 1983:32-35, 1984:41-44) and is a Middle Woodland refinement of South's (1960) previous Cape Fear series. The pottery is characterized by a sandy paste either with or without quantities of rounded pebbles. Surface treatments include fabric impressed, cord marked, and net impressed. Vessels are usually conoidal, although simple, hemispherical, and globular bowls are also present. The Mount Pleasant series is found from North Carolina southward to the Savannah River (being evidenced by the "Untyped Series" in Trinkley 1981b). North Carolina dates for the series range from A.D. 265±65 (UGA-1088) to A.D. 890±80 (UGA-3849). The several dates currently available from South Carolina (such as UGA-3512 of A.D. 565±70 from Pinckney Island) fall into this range of about A.D. 200 to 900.

The McClellanville (Trinkley 1981a) and Santee (Anderson et al. 1982:302-308) series are found primarily on the north central coast of South Carolina and are characterized by a fine to medium sandy paste ceramic with surface treatment of primarily v-shaped simple stamping. While the two pottery types are quite similar, it appears that the Santee series may have later features, such as excurvate rims and interior rim stamping, not so-far observed in the McClellanville series. The Santee series is placed at A.D. 800 to 1300 by Anderson et al. (1982:303), while the McClellanville ware may be slightly earlier, perhaps A.D. 500 to 800. Anderson et al. (1982:302-304; see also Anderson 1985) provide a detailed discussion of the Santee Series and its possible relationships with the McClellanville Series. Anderson, based on the Santee area data from Mattassee Lake, indicates that there is evidence for the replacement of fabric impressed pottery by simple stamping about A.D. 800 (David G. Anderson, personal communication 1990). This may suggest that McClellanville and Santee wares are closely related, both typologically and culturally. Also probably related is the little known Camden Series (Stuart 1975) found in the inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina.

The best data concerning Middle Woodland Coastal Zone assemblages comes from Phelps' (1983:32-33) work in North Carolina. Associated items include a small variety of the Roanoke Large Triangular points (Coe 1964:110-111), sandstone abraders, shell pendants, polished stone gorgets, celts, and woven marsh mats. Significantly, both primary inhumations and cremations are known from the Mount Pleasant phase.

These Middle Woodland Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone phases continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the Fall Line, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. Recent investigations at Coastal Zone sites such as 38BU747 and 38BU1214, however, have provided some evidence of worked bone and shell items at Deptford phase middens (see Trinkley 1990).

In terms of settlement patterns, several researchers have offered some conclusions based on localized data. Michie (1980:80), for example, correlates rising sea levels with the extension of Middle Woodland shell middens further up the Port Royal estuary. Scurry and Brooks (1980:75-78) find the Middle Woodland site patterning in the Wando River affected not only by the sea level fluctuations, but also by soil types (see also Trinkley 1980b:445-446). They suggest that the strong soil correlation is the result of upland sites having functioned as extraction areas, principally for exploitation of acorns, hickory nuts, and deer. Shell midden sites, they suggest, also represent seasonal camps and therefore exhibit small size, low artifact density, and infrequent re-occupation. Ward's (1978) work in Marlboro County suggests that interior site patterning changed little from the Early to Middle Woodland. Sites continue to be found on the low, sandy ridges overlooking hardwood swamp floodplains, which suggests that while pottery styles changed, site locations, and presumably subsistence, did not (see also Ferguson 1976). Drucker and Anthony's (1978) work in Florence County, South Carolina reveals virtually

continuous short-term occupation along the terraces associated with the floodplain of Lynch's Lake. DePratter's work at the Dunlap site, however, suggests that a few, relatively stable villages were present in the Middle Woodland.

Late Woodland and South Appalachian Mississippian

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years (cf. Sassaman et al. 1989:14-15). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971).

Along the central and northern South Carolina coast, Anderson et al. (1982:303-304) suggest a continuation of the Santee series into the Late Woodland. The Hanover and Mount Pleasant series may also be found as late of A.D. 1000. Along the southeastern North Carolina coast, South (1960) has defined the Oak Island complex, which is best known for its shell tempered ceramics with cord marked, fabric impressed, simple stamped, and net impressed surface finishes. The phase is briefly discussed by Phelps (1983:48-49), but curiously this manifestation is almost unknown south of the Little River in South Carolina. Very little is known about the northern coastal South Carolina Late Woodland complexes, although sites such as 38GE32 may document the occurrence of village life in the Late Woodland.

The South Appalachian Mississippian is typically characterized by the construction of truncated temple mounds, reliance on cultivated crops, the development of a social elite, and complicated stamped pottery. The best information for the coastal area comes from the only incompletely reported excavations at the Charles Town Landing site (South 1971). In addition, Anderson (1989) provides an excellent synthesis of Mississippian research in South Carolina, observing that "while we have a fair appreciation for the culmination of the Mississippian in South Carolina, its origins and immediate Woodland antecedents remains largely unknown at the present" (Anderson 1989:114; see also Anderson 1994).

Anderson also notes the need for additional research in the area of:

> relationships between Woodland and Mississippian occupations in South Carolina, particularly the mechanisms bringing about the transition between the seemingly markedly dissimilar forms of social organization and subsistence adaptation (Anderson 1989:113).

While Trinkley (1981a, 1983a, 1983b) has offered a cultural sequence for the Mississippian remains in the coastal area that encompasses the Jeremy, "classic" Pee Dee, "post-classic" Pee Dee, Wachesaw, and Kimbel series, Anderson et al. (1982:312-319) offers an alternative perspective incorporating Pee Dee and Ashley wares.

Protohistoric

The history of the numerous small coastal Indian tribes is poorly known. As Mooney noted, the coastal tribes:

> were of but small importance politically; no sustained mission work was ever attempted among them, and there were but few literary men to take an interest in them. War, pestilence, whiskey and systematic slave hunts had nearly exterminated the aboriginal occupants of the Carolinas before any body had thought them of sufficient importance to ask who they were, how they lived, or what were their beliefs and opinions (Mooney 1894:6).

In truth, our knowledge of these groups

has also been limited because too few scholars have taken an active interest in the primary sources and there has been too little desire to evaluate critically the early research by Mooney (1894) and Swanton (1952). For South Carolina Anderson (1989:117-118) briefly notes the current status of ethnohistoric research.

Historic Synopsis

The Spanish and French

The first Spanish explorations in the Carolina low country were conducted in the 1520s under the direction of Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon and Francisco Gordillo. One of the few areas explored by Gordillo which can be identified with any certainty is Santa Elena (St. Helena). Apparently Port Royal Sound was entered and land fall made at Santa Elena on Santa Elena's Day, August 18, 1520. "Cape Santa Elena," according to Quattlebaum (1956:8) was probably Hilton Head (Hoffman 1984:423).

Gordillo's accounts spurred Ayllon to seek a royal commission both to explore further the land and to establish a settlement in the land called Chicora (Quattlebaum 1956:12-17). In July 1526 Ayllon set sail for Chicora with a fleet of six vessels and has been thought to have established the settlement of San Miguel del Galdape in the vicinity of Winyah Bay (Quattlebaum 1956:23). Hoffman (1984:425) has more recently suggested that the settlement was at the mouth of the Santee River (Ayllon's Jordan River). Ferguson (n.d.:1) has suggested that San Miguel was established at Santa Elena in the Port Royal area. More recently, scholars have suggested that the settlement was on the Georgia coast, in the vicinity of St. Catherines Island (Rowland et al. 1996). Regardless, the colony was abandoned in the winter of 1526 with the survivors reaching Hispaniola in 1527 (Quattlebaum 1956:27).

The French, in response to increasing Spanish activity in the New World, undertook a settlement in the land of Chicora in 1562. Charlesfort was established in May 1562 under the direction of Jean Ribaut. This settlement fared no better than the earlier Spanish fort of San Miguel and was abandoned within the year (Quattlebaum 1956:42-56). Ribaut was convinced that his settlement was on the Jordan River in the vicinity of Ayllon's Chicora (Hoffman 1984:432). Recent historical and archaeological studies suggest that Charlesfort may have been situated on Port Royal Island in the vicinity of the Town of Port Royal (South 1982a, see also Rowland et al. 1996:23). The deserted Charlesfort was burned by the Spanish in 1564 (South 1982a:1-2). A year later France's second attempt to establish its claim in the New World was thwarted by the Spanish destruction of the French Fort Caroline on the St. John's River. The massacre at Fort Caroline ended French attempts at colonization on the southeast Atlantic coast.

To protect against any future French intrusion such as Charlesfort, the Spanish proceeded to establish a major outpost in the Beaufort area. The town of Santa Elena was built in 1566, a year after a fort was built in St. Augustine. Three sequential forts were constructed: Fort San Salvador (1566-1570), Fort San Felipe (1570-1576), and Fort San Marcos (1577-1587). In spite of Indian hostilities and periodic burning of the town and forts, the Spanish maintained this settlement until 1587 when it was finally abandoned (South 1979, 1982a, 1982b). Spanish influence, however, continued through a chain of missions spreading up the Atlantic coast from St. Augustine into Georgia. That mission activity, however, declined noticeably during the eighteenth century, primarily because of 1702 and 1704 attacks on St. Augustine and outlying missions by South Carolina Governor James Moore (Deagan 1983:25-26, 40).

The British Proprietory Period

British influence in the New World began in the fifteenth century with the Cabot voyages, but the southern coast did not attract serious attention until King Charles II granted Carolina to the Lords Proprietors in 1663. In August 1663 William Hilton sailed from Barbados to explore the Carolina territory, spending a great deal of time in the Port Royal area (Holmgren 1959). Almost chosen for the first English colony, Hilton Head Island was passed over by Sir John Yeamans in

favor of the more protected Charles Town site on the west bank of the Ashley River in 1670 (Clowse 1971:23-24; Holmgren 1959:39).

Like other European powers, the English were lured to the New World for reasons other than the acquisition of land and promotion of agriculture. The Lords Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system, which was designed to profit the mother country by providing raw materials unavailable in England (Clowse 1971). Charleston was settled by English citizens, including a number from Barbados, and by Huguenot refugees. Black slaves were brought directly from Africa, as well as Barbados.

The Charleston settlement was moved from the mouth of the Ashley River to the junction of the Ashley and Cooper Rivers in 1680, but the colony was a thorough disappointment to the Proprietors. It failed to grow as expected, did not return the anticipated profit, and failed to evidence workable local government (Ferris 1968:124-125). The early economy was based almost exclusively on Indian trade, naval stores, lumber, and cattle. Rice began emerging as a money crop in the late seventeenth century, but did not markedly improve the economic well-being of the colony until the eighteenth century (Clowse 1971).

Meanwhile, Scottish Covenanters under Lord Cardross established Stuart's Town on Scot's Island (Port Royal) in 1684, where it existed for four years until destroyed by the Spanish. It was not until 1698 that the area was again occupied by the English. Both John Stuart and Major Robert Daniell took possession of lands on St. Helena and Port Royal islands. The town of Beaufort was founded in 1711 although it was not immediately settled. Spring Island was granted to John Cockran in 1706 in two parcels of 500 acres each (S.C. Department of Archives and History, Colonial Series, Royal Grants, volume 39, page 6). One grant mentions that the land is "part of an Island over against Alatamaha Town."

While most of the Beaufort Indian groups were persuaded to move to Polawana Island in 1712, the Yemassee, part of the Creek Confederacy, revolted in 1715. By 1718 the Yemassee were defeated and forced southward to Spanish protection. Consequently, the Beaufort area, known as St. Helena Parish, Granville County, was for the first time relatively safe from both the Spanish and the Indians. The Yemassee, however, continued occasional raids into South Carolina, such as the 1728 destruction of the Passage Fort at Bloody Point on Daufuskie Island (Starr 1984:16). In the same year the English raid on St. Augustine succeeded in breaking the Spanish influence and the remnant Indian groups made peace with the English. The results for the Beaufort area, however, were mixed. While there was a semblance of peace, frontier settlements were largely deserted, population growth was slow, and the Indian trade was diverted from Beaufort to Savannah.

The British Colonial Period

Although peace marked the Carolina colony, the Proprietors continued to have disputes with the populace, primarily over the colony's economic stagnation and deterioration. In 1727 the colony's government virtually broke down when the Council and the Commons were unable to agree on legislation to provide more bills of credit (Clowse 1971:238). This, coupled with the disastrous depression of 1728, brought the colony to the brink of mob violence. Clowse notes that the "initial step toward aiding South Carolina came when the proprietors were eliminated" in 1720 (Clowse 1971:241).

While South Carolina's economic woes were far from solved by this transfer, the Crown's Board of Trade began taking steps to remedy many of the problems. A new naval store law was passed in 1729 with possible advantages accruing to South Carolina. In 1730 the Parliament opened Carolina rice trade with markets in Spain and Portugal. The Board of Trade also dealt with the problem of the colony's financial solvency (Clowse 1971:245-247). Clowse notes that these changes, coupled with new land policies, "allowed the colony to go into an era of unprecedented expansion" (Clowse 1971:249). South Carolina's position was

buttressed by the settlement of Georgia in 1733.

By 1730 the colony's population had risen to about 30,000 individuals, 20,000 of whom were black slaves (Clowse 1971:Table 1). The majority of these slaves were used in South Carolina's expanding rice industry. In the 1730 harvest year 48,155 barrels of rice were reported, up 15,771 barrels or 33% from the previous year (Clowse 1971:Table 3). Although rice was grown in the Beaufort area, it did not become a major crop in South Carolina until after the Revolutionary War. Rice was never a significant crop on the Beaufort Sea Islands, where ranch farming was favored because of its economic returns and favorable climate (Starr 1984:26-27). Elsewhere, however, rice monoculture shaped the social, political, and economic systems which produced and perpetuated the coastal plantation system prior to the rise of cotton culture.

Although indigo was known in the Carolina colony as early as 1669 and was being planted the following year, it was not until the 1740s that it became a major cash crop (Huneycutt 1949). While indigo was difficult to process, its success was partially due to it being complementary to rice. Huneycutt notes that planters were "able to 'dovetail' the work season of the two crops so that a single gang of slaves could cultivate both staples" (Huneycutt 1949:18). Indigo continued to be the main cash crop of South Carolina until the Revolutionary War fatally disrupted the industry.

During the Revolutionary War the British occupied Charleston for over two and one-half years (1780-1782). A post was established in Beaufort to coordinate forays into the inland waterways after Prevost's retreat from the Battle of Stono Ferry (Federal Writer's Project 1938:7; Rowland 1978:288). British earthworks were established around Port Royal and on Ladys Island (Rowland 1978:290). The removal of the royal bounties on rice, indigo, and naval stores caused considerable economic chaos during and after the war with the eventual "restructuring of the state's agricultural and commercial base" (Brockington et al. 1985:34).

The Antebellum Period

While freed of Britain and her mercantilism, the new United States found its economy thoroughly disrupted. There was no longer a bounty on indigo, and in fact Britain encouraged competition from the British and French West Indies and India "to embarrass her former colonies" (Huneycutt 1949:44). As a consequence the economy shifted to tidewater rice production and cotton agriculture. Lepionka notes that "long staple cotton of the Sea Islands was of far higher value than the common variety (60 cents a pound compared to 15 cents a pound in the late 1830s) and this became the major cash crop of the coastal islands" (Lepionka et al. 1983:20). It was cotton, in the Beaufort area, that brought a full establishment of the plantation economy. Lepionka concisely states that:

> [t]he cities of Charleston and Savannah and numerous smaller towns such as Beaufort and Georgetown were supported in their considerable splendor on this wealth . . . . An aristocratic planter class was created, but was based on the essential labor of black slavery without which the plantation economy could not function. Consequently, the demographic pattern of a black majority first established in colonial times was reinforced (Lepionka et al. 1983:21).

Mills, in 1826, provides a thorough commentary on the Beaufort District noting that:

> Beaufort is admirably situated for commerce, possessing one of the finest ports and spacious harbors in the world . . . . There is no district in the state, either better watered, of more extended navigation, or possessing a larger portion of rich land, than Beaufort: more than one half of the territory is rich swamp land, capable of being improved so as

> to yield abundantly (Mills 1826:367).

Describing the Beaufort islands, Mills comments that they were "beautiful to the eye, rich in production, and withal salubrious" (Mills 1826:372). Land prices ranged from $60 an acre for the best, $30 for "second quality," and as low as 25 cents for the "inferior" lands. Grain and sugarcane were cultivated in small quantities for home use while:

> [t]he principal attention of the planter is . . . devoted to the cultivation of cotton and rice, especially the former. The sea islands, or salt water lands, yield cotton of the finest staple, which commands the highest price in market; it has been no uncommon circumstance for such cotton to bring $1 a pound. In favorable seasons, or particular spots, nearly 300 weight has been raised from an acre, and an active field hand can cultivate upwards of four acres, exclusive of one acre and half of corn and ground provisions (Mills 1826:368).

Reference to the 1860 agricultural census reveals that of the 891,228 acres of farmland, 274,015 (30.7%) were improved. In contrast, only 28% of the State's total farmland was improved, and only 17% of the neighboring Colleton District's farm land was improved. Even in wealthy Charleston District only 17.8% of the farm land was improved (Kennedy 1864:128-129). The cash value of Beaufort farms was $9,900,652, while the state average by county was only $4,655,083. The value of Beaufort farms was greater than any other district in the state for that year, and only Georgetown listed a greater cash value of farming implements and machinery (perhaps reflecting the more specialized equipment needed for rice production).

The record of wealth and prosperity, such as it was, is tempered by the realization that it was based on the racial imbalance typical of Southern slavery. In 1820 there were 32,199 people enumerated in Beaufort District, 84.9% of whom were black (Mills 1826:372). While the 1850 population had risen to 38,805, the racial breakdown had changed little, with 84.7% being black (83.2% were slaves). Thus, while the statewide ratio of free white to black slave was 1:1.4, the Beaufort ratio was 1:5.4 (DeBow 1853:338).

Civil War and the Postbellum

Hilton Head Island fell to Union forces on November 7, 1861 and was occupied by the Expeditionary Corps under the direction of General T.W. Sherman. Beaufort, deserted by the Confederate troops and the white towns-people, was occupied by the Union forces several weeks later. A single white person, who remained loyal to the Federal government, was found on Ladys Island (Johnson 1969:189). Hilton Head became the Headquarters for the Department of the South and served as the staging area for a variety of military campaigns. A brief sketch of this period, generally accurate, is offered by Holmgren (1959), while a similarly popular account is provided by Carse (1981). As a result of Hilton Head and Beaufort's early occupation by Union forces, all of the plantations fell to military occupation, a large number of blacks flocked to the area, and a "Department of Experiments" was born. An excellent account of the "Port Royal Experiment" is provided by Rose (1964), while the land policies on St. Helena are explored by McGuire (1985).

Recently, Trinkley (1986) has examined the freedmen village of Mitchelville on Hilton Head Island. One result of the Mitchelville work was to document how little is actually known about the black heritage and postbellum history of the sea islands. Even the social research spearheaded by the University of North Carolina's Institute for Research in Social Science at Chapel Hill in the early twentieth century (e.g. Johnson 1969, Woofter 1930) failed to record much of the activities on islands such as Hilton Head.

McGuire (1982, 1985) provides a detailed account of the land policies in the area during the Civil War and her studies should be consulted for

detailed information. In general, however, blacks slowly came to own a large proportion of the available land. Certificates of possession were eventually issued for a number of the sea island plantations (McGuire 1982:36). During the postbellum period previous owners slowly came forward to reclaim, or redeem, land confiscated by the Federal government. The 1872 redemption process was not totally successful, partially because some tracts had such low value. By the 1890s a program was established to provide owners unsuccessful at either restoration or redemption with token compensation (McGuire 1982:77; S.C. Department of Archives and History, Secretary of State Records, Beaufort County Tax Claims, Direct Tax Compensation Book IX/2/4/3B).

During the late nineteenth century most of the sea island plantations continued as a rural, isolated agrarian communities. The new plantation owners attempted to forge an economic relationship with the free black laborers and found a multitude of problems, including the need to pay higher wages, increasing problems with the cotton boll weevil, and decreasing fertility. The letters of G.C. Hardy, the manager of the Eustis Plantation on Ladys Island in the 1870s, clearly reveal the problems faced during this period. Hardy, in his letters to Frederic Eustis, discusses the rising labor costs and the serious losses of cotton to the boll weevil (South Caroliniana Library, Frederic A. Eustis Collection).

In the 1870s a new form of livelihood was introduced -- the mining of phosphate for fertilizer. While both land and river rock mining were conducted in South Carolina, the Beaufort area saw primarily river dredging to acquire the phosphate ore present as gravel, although land mining of phosphate nodules also took place (Mathews et al. 1980:27, 31). As the industry began to decline in the early twentieth century, blacks returned to agriculture and oyster factories.

Woofter (1930) provides information on the agricultural practices of the St. Helena blacks in the early twentieth century, noting that the population was largely stable, with most blacks remaining in the vicinity of their parents' "home" plantations (Woofter 1930:265). While islands, such as St. Helena, which were large and easily accessible began to change more rapidly during this period, the smaller, more isolated islands, such as Hilton Head, maintained very clear connections with the past which have been repeatedly documented through oral histories.

Historic Synthesis of the Project Area

There are relatively few maps of the project area and most offer only minimal information. Among the most detailed is used in the previously discussed cartographic survey.

This map is the U.S. Coast Survey, Chart 55, "Coast of South Carolina and Georgia from Hunting Island to Ossabaw Island." Although it dates from 1873, it was surveyed just prior to the Civil War. The chart therefore reflects the appearance of the area at about the time of the Civil War. The map reveals that most of the survey tract was in dense woods, with only one small field just south of the plantation settlement and pasture area (or old fields) to the south and west of the cultivated field (Figure 9).

Several other maps, not incorporated in the original cartographic survey, were also examined for additional information. Figure 10 is the ca. 1780 map of the Beaufort area from the Dartmouth College Library's Scavenius Collection. This shows that a settlement, labeled Scotone, was situated in the general project area. Given the scale and rendering of the map, it is possible only to place the settlement somewhere between the Colleton River bend and the Bluffton area. Although it shows the location of "Colleton," which corresponds to Smith's "Colleton Old Settlement Site," Smith fails to mention a Scotone or show any settlement in this area. Moreover, there is no Scotone listed in the S.C. Department of Archives and History Combined Alphabetic Inventory.

While it seems likely that Scotone was the last name of an occupant it is not clear if the individual was an owner, or perhaps simply an overseer. It is also possible that this settlement is the location of one of those tracts disposed of by Colleton prior to his death in 1777. Given the condition of Beaufort County land records it may

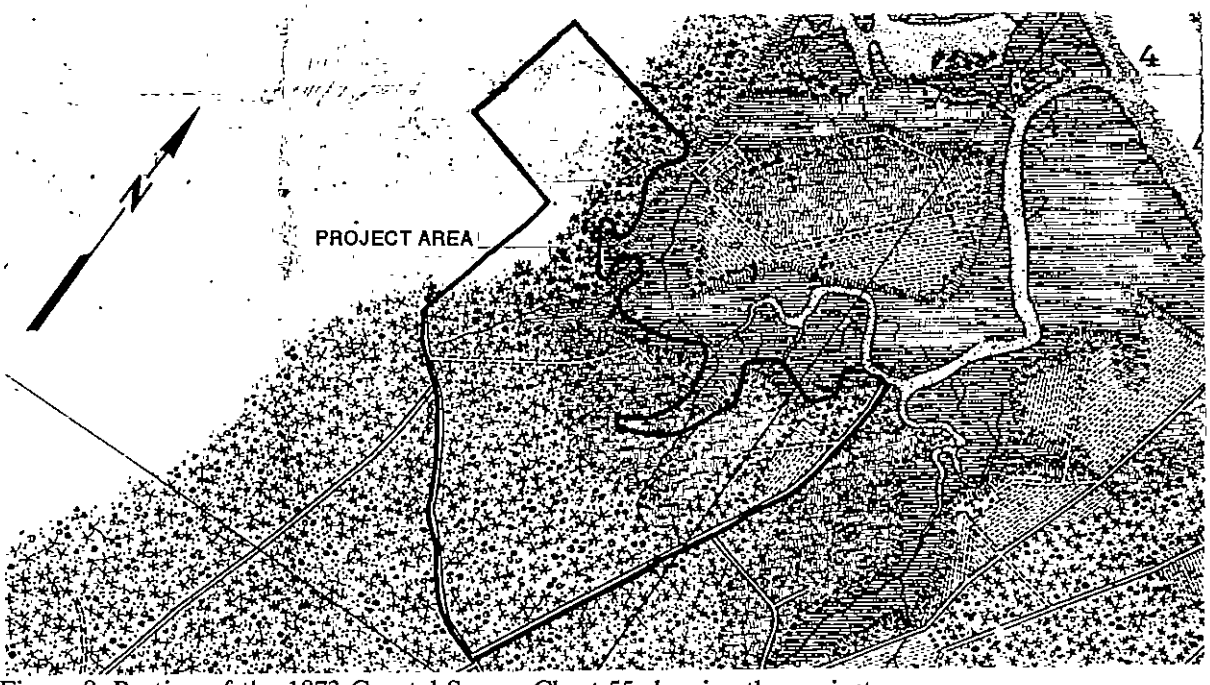

Figure 9. Portion of the 1873 Coastal Survey Chart 55 showing the project area.

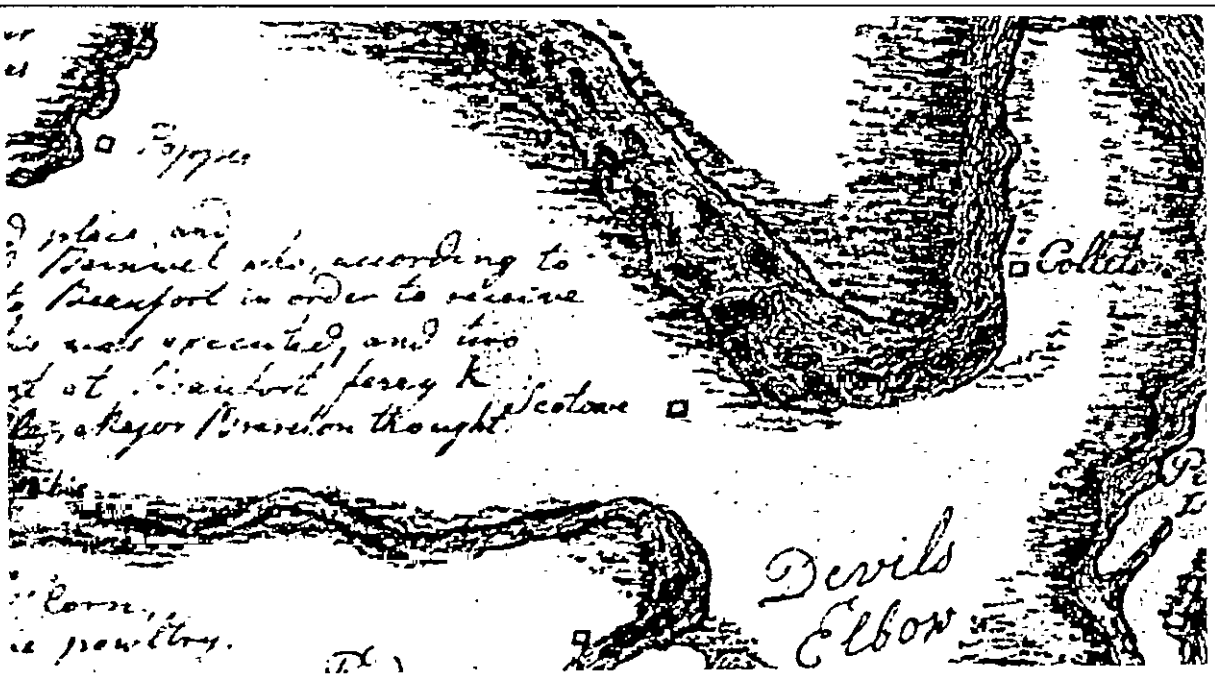

Figure 10. The project area from ca. 1780 (Scavenius Collection, Dartmouth College).

be possible to obtain a clear title on all of the various parcels.

Figure 11 "Map Showing the Location of the Lands of the South Carolina Land and Improvement Company" dates from 1877 and reveals that the study parcel was part of the organization's holdings. It also reveals that there are at least two settlements on the survey tract — those of Woodward and Stoney. The location of these settlements is confirmed by the 1873 Law and Kirk map of Beaufort County.

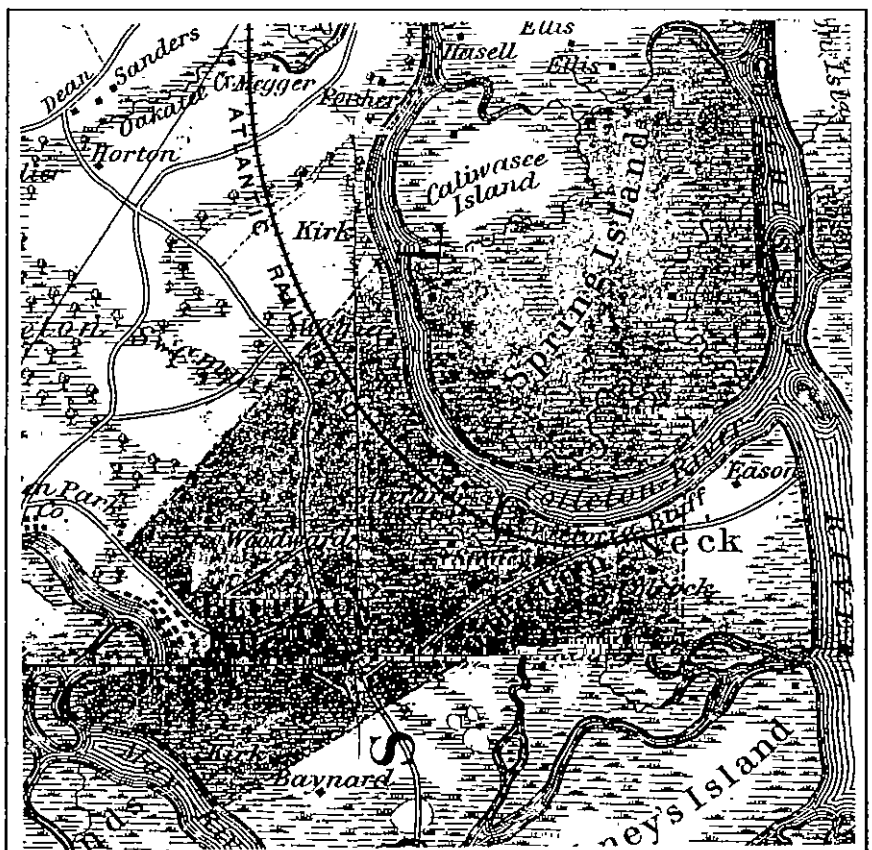

Figure 11. South Carolina Land and Improvement Company lands in the project area about 1877.

Figure 12 is the 1920 edition of the Okatie 15' topographic map published by the Corp of Engineers from field work conducted in 1912. This map is of exceptional importance since it reveals that the plantation settlement shown in Figure 9 was still standing. The only other structure on the study tract at this time was in the north central area adjacent to the marsh of Sawmill Creek.

Figure 13, from 1937, suggests that activity in the study area was minimal. The only structure shown for the tract is along US 278 , opposite SC 462. Just off the tract, to the west, was the Belfair School, listed as being for "Negroes." A similar facility, Foot Point School, is situated off the tract to the east.

The title search for the study tract was exceedingly difficult. Although 1.5 person days were devoted to this work, it was impossible to either complete the chain or to even identify reasonably detailed plats to allow certain property delineations.

Of course, we began with two separate tracts. TMS R600 032 0000 0001 is Crescent Plantation proper and consists of 665 acres. It is currently owned by Josephine W. Johnson and was inherited through the will of her husband, Malcomb Johnson (Beaufort County Probate Court WB J, page 111). The other tract, TMS R600 032 0000 0002 encompasses 148 acres and is currently owned by Trimbleton Partnership. It was acquired in 1973 from J. Wilton Graves, Robert L. Graves, and Henry H. Claussen (Beaufort County RMC, DB 211, page 838).

The main tract, Crescent Plantation, was acquired by Johnson from James B. Walker of Bluffton in 1945 for the purchase price of $8,000 (Beaufort County RMC, DB 63, page 58). At that time the property was described as being on the "Fording Island Public Road one mile north of

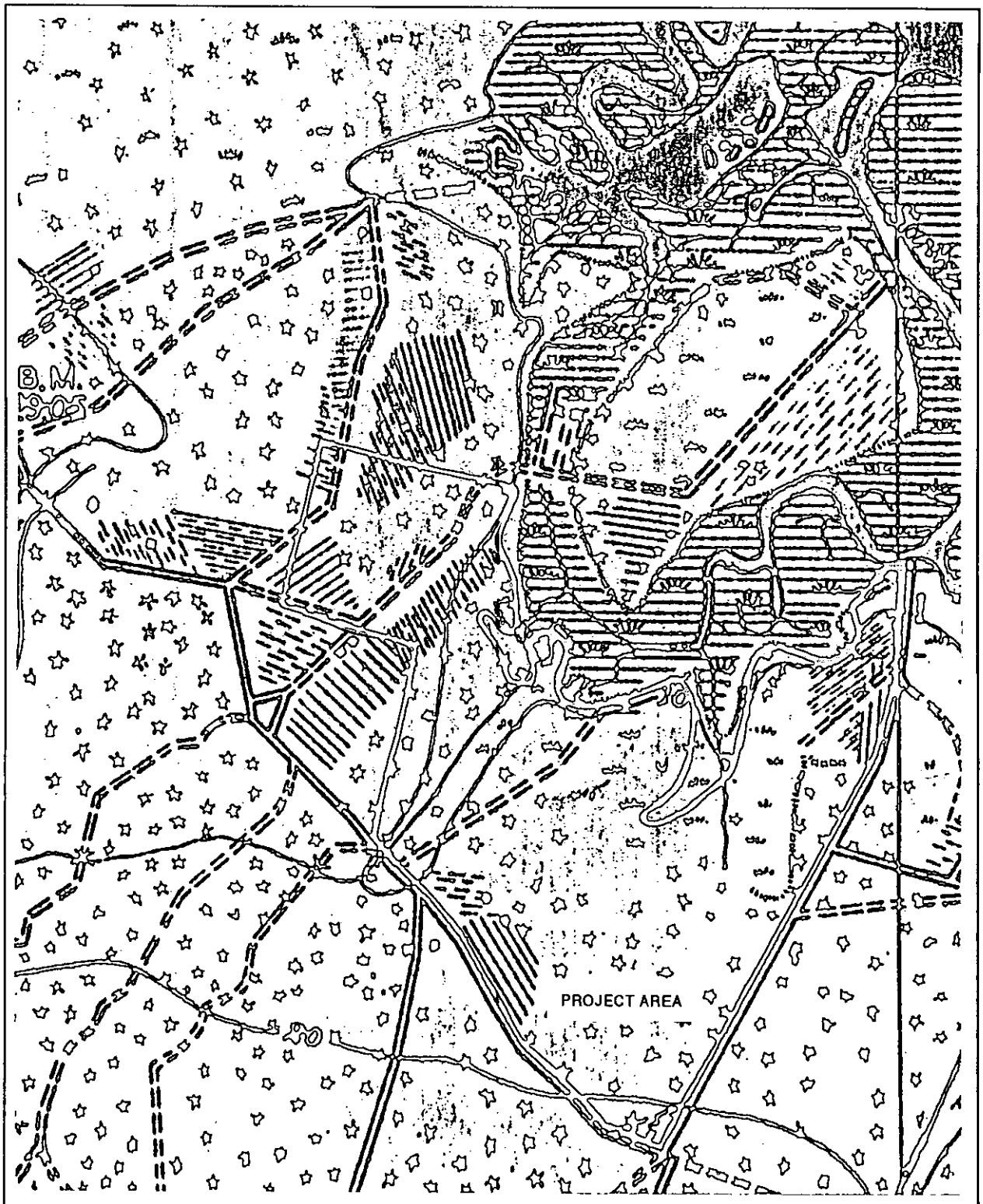

Figure 12. Portion of the 1920 Okatie 15' topographic map showing the project area.

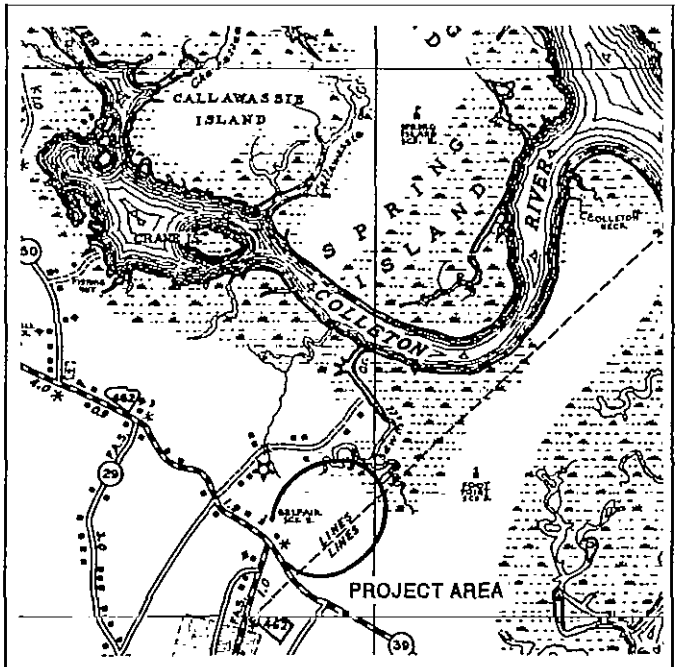

Figure 13. Portion of the 1937 General Highway and Transportation Map of Beaufort County.

Bluffton on the marshes of Chechessee River." The description indicated that it was bounded to the north by Oak Forest Plantation and the marshes of Chechessee, to the east by Trimblestone [sic] Plantation owned by the Simmons, to the south by Fording Island Road and portions of the old Hunting Island tract, and to the west by the Old Barnwell tract and a portion of Oak Forest Plantation. The deed also makes reference to a 1934 plat (Beaufort County RMC, PB 3, page 113) which is reproduced as Figure 14.

Both the recital and the plat, therefore, continued to use the plantation names of at least the early nineteenth century. What isn't, however, clear is what tract this plantation evolved from, especially when Figure 14 is compared to H.A.M. Smith's map of the Okeetee Barony (Figure 5).

Tracing Crescent Plantation beyond 1945 proved very difficult. There was no listing in the cross-index for James B. Walker, although it is possible that he may have acquired the tract through an inheritance. In an effort to bypass this difficulty, we picked up the title with the South Carolina Land and Improvement Company, which we know from Figure 11 owned the study tract.

The South Carolina Land and Improvement Company purchased four different tracts in six different purchases. From Cox, Southern, and Keeney the company acquired Spring Island (Beaufort County RMC, DB 10, pages 457, 458, and 619). They acquired Camp Plantation from Colcock (Beaufort County RMC, DB 10, page 584), Oak Forest Plantation from Southern (Beaufort County DB 10, page 585), and Trembleton Plantation from Mackay and Keeney (Beaufort County RMC, DB 10, page 617). It still was not clear which of these tracts encompassed what is today known as Crescent Plantation.

John M. Mackay and William Keeney sold a "plantation late the residence of Rev. James Stoney, called Trembleton" on April 20, 1876. This suggests that the residence shown on Figure 11 as "Stoney" was the Trembleton tract, although H.A.M. Smith (Figure 5) shows the Trembleston residence slightly further to the east. Nevertheless, the recital for the plantation reveals that it is bounded to the north by the Colleton River, to the east by Charles Colcock Pinckney and Buckingham Plantation, to the south by "lands of William Pope, deceased, now owned by Dr. James R. Kirk," and to the west by lands of Pope (Beaufort County RMC, DB 10, page 617). This almost certainly is the Trembleston Plantation to the east of the study tract.

Charles J. Colcock sold his 700 acre Camp Plantation to the South Carolina Land and Improvement Company on January 6, 1877 for $5,000. The plantation was bounded to the north and east by Colleton River and lands of Foot Point Land Co., to the east and south by lands of Foot Point Land Company and Delworth Creek, to the south by Delworth and Toppin Creeks, separating the tract from Bear Island, and to the west by the "estate of Charles Colcock Pinckney, known as Toppin and the lands formerly belonging to the Rev. James Stoney and known as Trembleton and on waters of Colleton River" (Beaufort County RMC, DB 10, page 584). This places the Camp

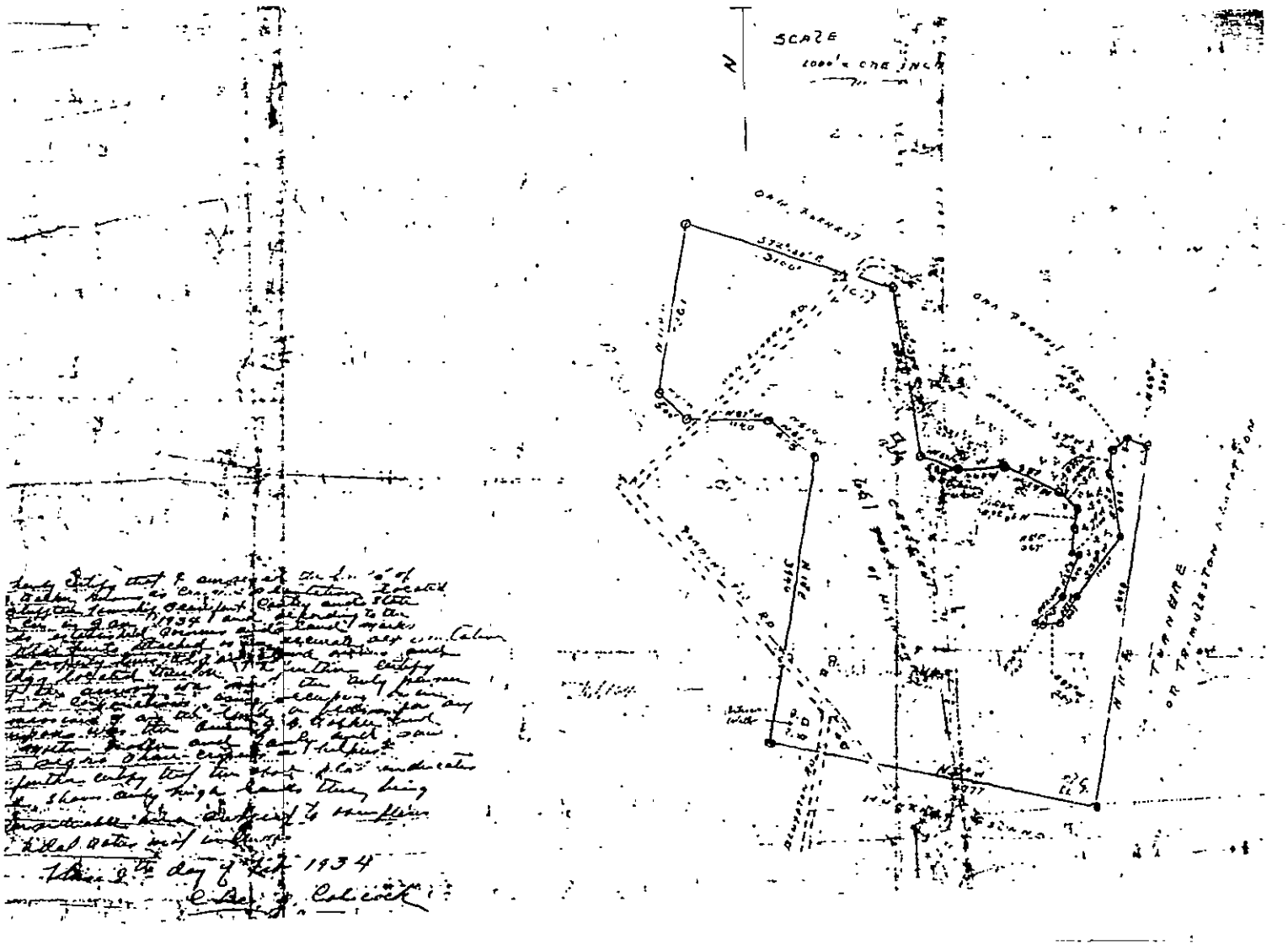

Figure 14. 1934 plat of Crescent Plantation (Beaufort County RMC, PB 3, page 113).

Plantation to the east of Trembleton tract, almost exactly in the location implied by H.A.M. Smith in his Figure 5.

The final tract, Oak Forest, was sold by John P. Southern to the South Carolina Land and Improvement tract, on February 2, 1877 for $3 and other valuable considerations (Beaufort County RMC, DB 10, page 585). The 800 acre tract was bounded on the north and east by the Colleton River, on the south by the estate of William Pope and on the west by lands formerly of Paul Seabrook and now George A. Trenholm. Although there is no plat of this tract, and H.A.M Smith fails to show any settlement associated with Oak Forest, there is a plat of the Oak Forest Marsh (Beaufort County RMC, DB 19, page 68) which shows the tract as likely being situated between the junction of Telfair Creek and the Colleton River to the west and the junction of Saw Mill Creek and Colleton River to the east (Figure 15). This suggests that Oak Forest *may* have included at least some portion of Crescent Plantation.

The descriptions of these tracts also suggest that Pope held at least some lands which almost certainly were the bulk of modern Crescent Plantation. This is further confirmed by Bailey (1984:451). The South Carolina Land and Improvement map also makes reference to the Woodward settlement. This was almost certainly Mrs. E.C. Woodward, who in the 1870 census was 57 years old and residing in St. Lukes Parish.

William Pope, often called Squire Pope, was a prominent land owner in the Beaufort area during the late antebellum. With the fall of Hilton Head in 1861, Pope took refuge in Sandersville, Georgia, where he died in 1862 (Bailey 1984:451-452). A March 20, 1862 letter from Gertrude Pope Woodward in Sandersville, Georgia informed Heppy (Heph J. Pope, one of Pope's granddaughters) of his death, remarking, "his health was bad for a long time — but the loss of his property, & the loss of his grandchildren, all coming upon him at once, was more than he could bear, [and] he soon sunk under the weight of his afflictions" (South Carolina Historical Society, Pope Correspondence File 11-550).

At least by 1868 Pope's wife, Sarah, had returned to the Beaufort area and was living in Bluffton. In one letter Sarah Pope remarks:

> our village is very dull, everybody seems discouraged at the times and finding it so hard to live — It is a great pity for this is such a pleasant place to live at, if it was only the same that it was before the war (South Carolina Historical Society, Pope Correspondence File 11-550).

None of her letters, however, mentions restoration efforts and previous research (Trinkley 1989:54-55, Trinkley 1990:28-31) reveals the complexity of the Pope holdings.

Why no grantee deed for this property coming into the ownership of the South Carolina Land and Improvement Company is unknown. In fact, throughout all of this preliminary research, we were unable to identify any conveyances from Pope's heirs. It is likely that much more research will be necessary in order to fully understand the complexity of Crescent Plantation.

The adjacent tract of Trimbleston Plantation does not appear nearly as confused, although it has passed through a number of hands. The Graves, who sold the 148 acres to Trimbleton Partnership, acquired the tract from Gerald B. Graves and Stephen R. Graves in 1969 for $150,000 (Beaufort County RMC, DB 167, page 247). They, in turn, had acquired it that same year from John Samuel Graves III for $5 and love and affection (Beaufort County RMC, DB 164, page 86.

Graves had acquired the tract in 1945 from Louisa B. Simmons for $3,000. The parcel was bordered to the north by Oak Forest Creek, to the east and southeast by the remainder of Trimbleton, owned by Simmons, to the south and southwest by C.E. Ulmer, and to the west and northwest by Malcomb Johnson, the owner of Crescent Plantation. A plat was prepared of the tract (Figure 16; Beaufort County RMC, PB 6, page 36). The accompanying deed, however, notes that the:

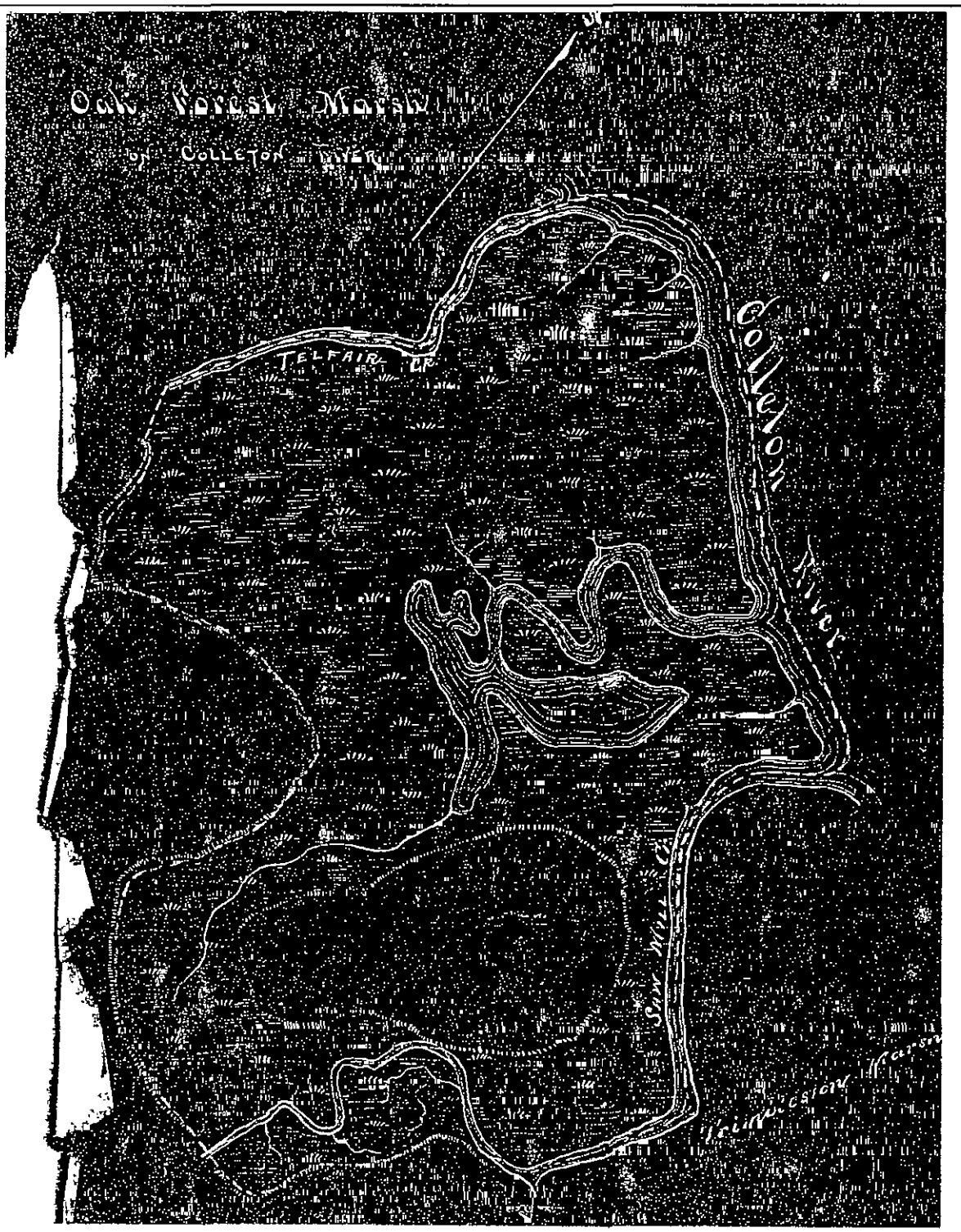

Figure 15. Marshes of Oak Forest Plantation (Beaufort County RMC, DB 19, page 68).

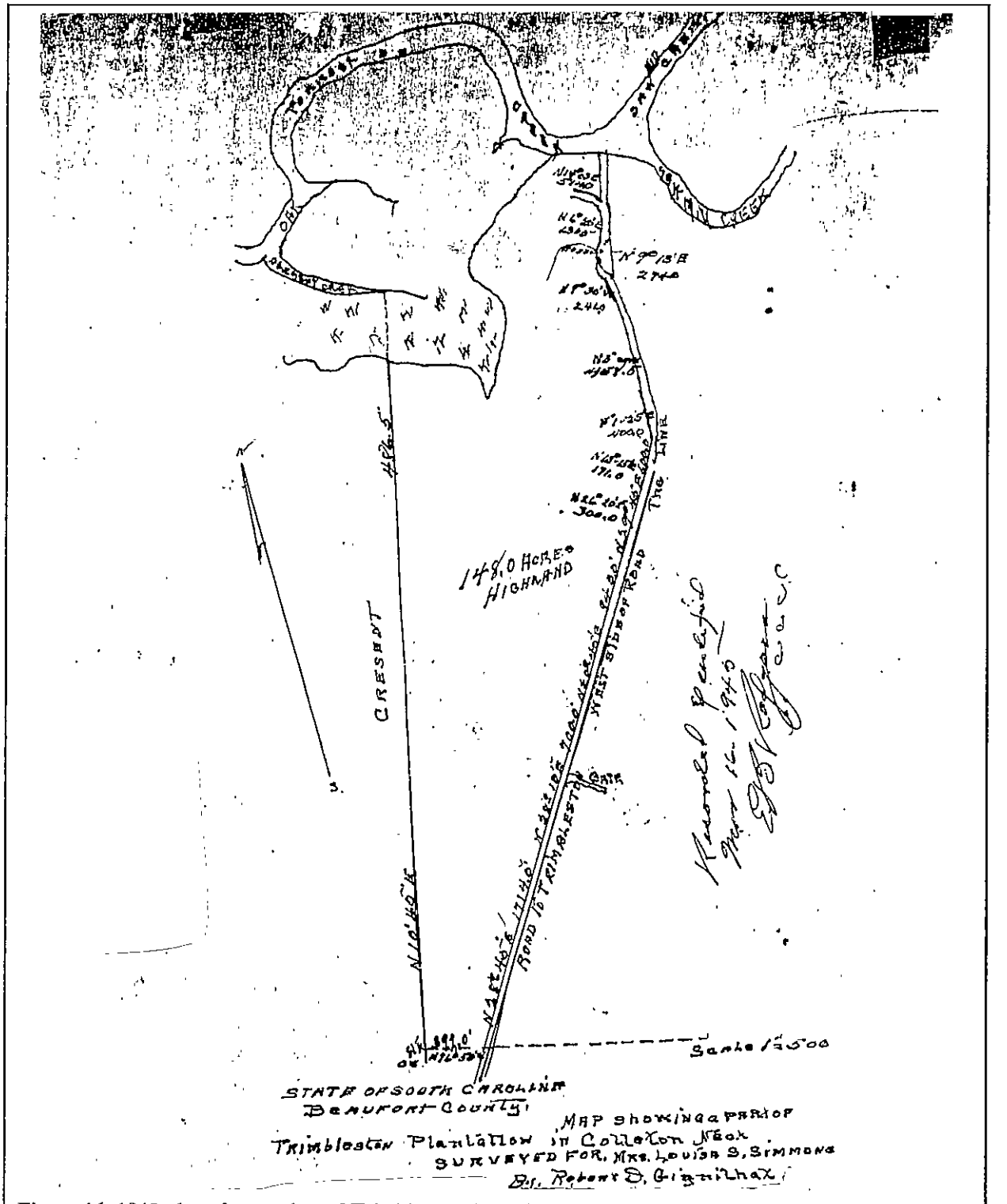

Figure 16. 1945 plat of a portion of Trimbleton Plantation (Beaufort County RMC, PB 6, page 36).

> plat shows a certain house in the northwest corner of the property as being a part of such tract. However, the west side of the road on the side of the house is the line and the house is not be [sic] included as part of the above described tract (Beaufort County RMC, DB 63, page 237).

This parcel was the western edge of the much larger tract acquired by Simmons in 1942 from Gladys M. Murdaugh for $7,000 (Beaufort County RMC, DB 59, page 238). That tract, accounting for 1800 acres, included Toppin and Trimbleston plantations and was described as bounding to the west and northwest on the lands of Walker and the Colleton River, to the southeast by the lands of Crams (owner of Foot Point Plantation), Morin, and Hog Bluff River, and south on the lands of Morin and Ulmer.

Murdaugh, strangely enough, had acquired the property in 1941 from Louisa B. Simmons for $7,500. Perhaps Simmons was going through a period of weak finances, since the deed specifies that not only were the 1800 acre Tippin and Trimbleston plantations being sold, but also all of the farm equipment on the tracts. This included three vehicles; boats and bateaux;, motors; a tractor; various farm tools; livestock including 10 horses, one mule, 49 head of cattle, hogs, goats, sheep, and approximately 10 dogs; as well as "all household goods and fixtures now located in the dwelling houses located on the above described property" (Beaufort County RMC, DB 57, page 254).

Louisa Simmons, using her married name of Louisa S. Turnure, acquired the property on March 5, 1930 from Elise Huger Harrison et al. for $100. The purchased tract included 765 acres of land in Toppin Plantation and 800 acres in Trimbleton Plantation (Beaufort County RMC, DB 48, page 50).

Elise Huger Harrison, Caroline Pinckney Huger, Emma Huger Barrow, Percival E. Huger, and Clarmont Huger Lee, heirs of J.A. Huger (who died in 1915) and Mary Elliott Huger (who died in 1919) had acquired the property from the Trimblestone Land Company, also on March 5, 1930. This dead indicates that the land company had been established by Huger as a tax shield, and that the land was no longer necessary, suggesting that the conveyance was made to clear the title and allow the Huger heirs to dispose of the property (Beaufort County RMC, DB 48, page 49). In fact, Joseph A. Huger had sold the Trimbleston and Toppin tracts, along with Daws Island, to The Trimblestone Land Company in 1897 (Beaufort County RMC, DB 22, page 250). The 800 acre Trimbleston Plantation was described as the residence of Rev. James Stoney, deceased. It was bounded to the north by Colleton River, to the east by Charles Colcock Pinckney's land (see Beaufort County RMC, DB 41, page 685 for the purchase of this 100 acre tract by W.M. Simmons, apparently adding it the remainder of Trimbleston) and Buckingham Plantation, to the south by the lands of William Pope, deceased, lately Dr. James Kirk, and to the west by lands of William Pope, deceased. Clearly, these lands of Pope are Crescent Plantation.

Huger had obtained the plantation in 1890 from Louis W. Haskell and Langdon Cheves for $3,600 (Beaufort County RMC, DB 17, page 15). Described as Trimbleton and the "late residence of Reverend James Stoney, deceased," the deed provided the same recital as the later transfer to The Trimblestone Land Company.

Cheves had become a partial owner of Trimbleston in 1882, when Haskell had sold an interest in the property (Beaufort County RMC, DB 13, page 157). Haskell himself acquired the plantation when the S.C. Land and Improvement Company was forced to sell off its holdings in the late 1870s and early 1880s (Beaufort County RMC, DB 17, page 15). And, as previously discussed, Trimbleton had been acquired by the S.C. Land and Improvement Company in 1876 from John M. Mackay and William Keeney. Cole notes that:

> The name of "Trimblestone" was given to this tract when it came under the ownership of William Wigg Barnwell. Dr. George Mosse Stoney bought the 800-acre

> plantation from Barnwell, his brother-in-law, and gave it to his son, Dr. James Stoney, when he married Mary Clara Reed on April 5, 1842 (Cole 1979:73).

H.A.M Smith, of course, reminds us that Louisa Graves had sold a portion of the Colleton Barony to Benjamin Guerard, which part seems afterward to have become the property of Mr. William Wigg Barnwell by whom it was called 'Trimbleston'" (Smith 1988:89). With these last pieces, a fairly complete chain of title is possible for the eastern edge of the survey parcel.

Although this brief overview of the available historic documents fails to reveal precise building locations, it does provide a preliminary (and provisional) chain of title for portions of the study parcel, combined with clear documentation of the area's significance. It also suggests that a more detailed archival search, emphasizing primary documents is absolutely essential. Furthermore, this initial historical reconnaissance reveals that at least a week of historical research will likely be necessary to fully piece together the complexities of the Crescent Plantation. Our current study also warns us that there are likely to be numerous gaps in the historical documents, making the archaeological research that much more significant to our understanding of the area.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS

Methodology

The background research revealed that the fields in the survey tract were cultivated at least as far back as the 1939 aerials of the tract (CDU 4-186 and CDU 4-125, Thomas Cooper Map Repository, University of South Carolina). The 1959 aerials for the project area (CDU 4AA-65, Thomas Cooper Map Repository, University of South Carolina) reveal that the cultivation pattern was stable and that very little land was going in or out of cultivation.

Our field investigation discovered that while these traditionally cultivated fields had been cleared as recently as three years ago, many were today largely covered in second growth pine and grass. Sometime between 1994 and 1997 most of the fields had been taken out of cultivation, with the result that surface survey conditions were generally very poor. The only exceptions to this was the field closest to US 278, portions of which appear to have been cultivated as recently as last year. It appears, however, that the bulk of this farming is associated with food plots for wildlife.

We also found that the wooded tracts were typically associated with the less productive, lower, and more moist soils. These wooded areas ranged from very dense stands of mixed pine and hardwood, to open stands of immature maritime forest, to open stands of swamp timber.

Given the limited time for the reconnaissance survey our first focus was on an effort to identify historic sites suggested by the cartographic and documentary research. In particular, we were interested in recovering the Woodward site, which appeared to be the main settlement on Crescent Plantation, and the Stoney site, which appeared to be the main settlement on the adjacent Trembleston Plantation tract.

Our second focus was on spot checking areas traditionally considered to be high probability areas for archaeological remains — areas of well drained soils bordering inland sloughs and areas along the marsh edge.

Both goals were accomplished using pedestrian survey techniques, visually exploring open areas and walking the marsh edge. No subsurface testing was conducted during this survey since the goals were to evaluate the potential of the survey tract to yield archaeological materials. Since the entire 600 acre tract could not be examined, Figure 17 reveals those areas which have been examined during this study. It is important to realize that any subsequent subsurface survey on this tract should incorporate these previously explored areas, not only to evaluate identified site boundaries, but also to ensure that additional sites do not exist.

As will be discussed below, both of the sites projected by the cartographic research were found — once again demonstrating the value of the cartographic research conducted for Beaufort County. In virtually every case examined by Chicora, the projected site has been located in the field. This is a tribute not only to the value of the technique and the precision of the plotting, but also to the accuracy of the original maps.

Identified Sites

Seven archaeological sites were identified during this reconnaissance study — five on the Crescent Plantation tract and two on the adjoining Trembleston tract. These sites are briefly described below.

Since this was a reconnaissance level investigation and no subsurface examinations were conducted, it is not possible to assess the National Register eligibility of the identified sites. Nevertheless, we offer comments concerning the probable significance of the sites, based on the best

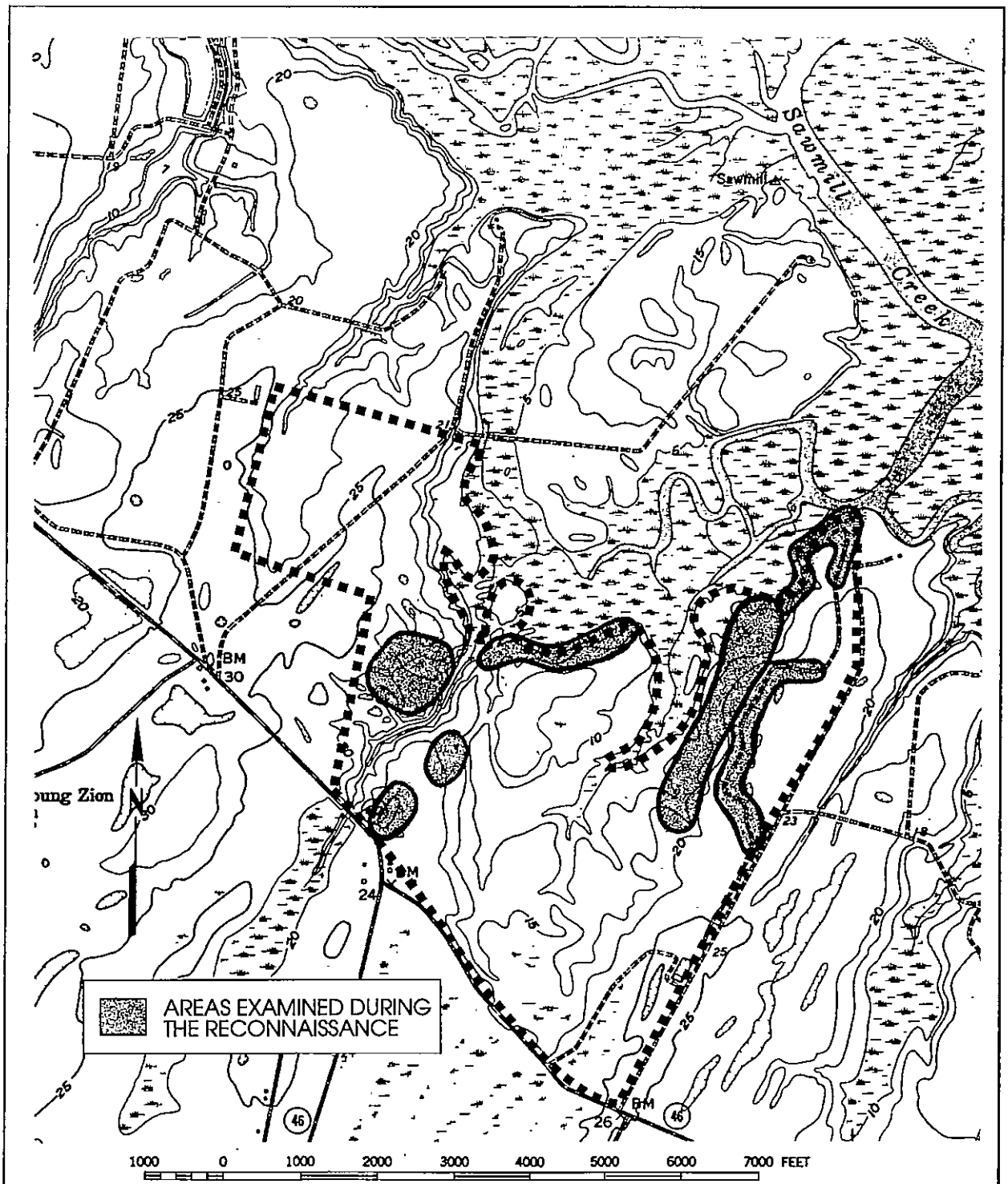

Figure 17. Areas of the study tract examined during this reconnaissance survey.

currently available information. These sites, however, will require more detailed assessment should development proceed on the study tract.

38BU1711

This site is situated at the south edge of the field on the western third of the study tract and the central UTM coordinates are E513840 N3569780. At the time of this survey the site area was beginning to be heavily overgrown in grass and second growth pine. Surface visibility was under 25%. The topography was fairly level with elevations of about 8 feet above mean sea level (AMSL), although the ground falls off to the south and the east, toward a tributary of Sawmill Creek. The soils in site area were sandy, identified as the Wando series.

Although only five artifacts could be recovered under these survey conditions, they were spread out over an area measuring about 150 feet in diameter. The materials recovered include four undecorated whitewares and one small prehistoric sherd. Occasional brick fragments were observed in the field, but much more common were fragments of oyster shell, likely plowed out of subsurface middens.

Clearly a much more intensive survey is needed in this area to fully assess the site, determine its boundaries, and establish its context. It does, however, appear that it represents a small late nineteenth century, possibly early twentieth century tenant settlement at the edge of the agricultural field. The prehistoric pottery is likely associated with the field's proximity to the marsh slough. The dispersed shell suggests that there may be subsurface shell pits or pockets.

38BU1712

This site was found on the east central edge of the western-most field, at an elevation of about 8 feet AMSL overlooking a steep slope eastward toward a tributary of Sawmill Creek. This slough appears to have at least some fresh water associated with it, given the vegetation and ponding. This, however, may represent the result of historic modifications. The site is situated on a slight rise of sand soil, identified as the Wando series. The central UTM coordinates are E514040 N3569820.

The site was partially exposed in a dirt road running between the slough and field edge, but was also traced into the field itself. Shell is abundant in this area, but does not appear to be concentrated in any particular area. Surface visibility was less than 25% and a thin stand of pines was also invading this area of the field. Five fragments of pottery were found dispersed in an area measuring about 50 feet in diameter. The recovered materials include four fragments of Stallings Plain and one probable Deptford Plain sherd.

The material is suggestive of a very small campsite, possibly of a single family unit, visiting the slough area and taking advantage of the sandy rise. Material is sparse, but additional survey is certainly necessary.

38BU1713

This site is very similar to 38BU1712 and is situated in an almost identical setting. The central UTM coordinates are E514080 N3569900, placing the sites about 250 feet apart. This site is also on the field edge, overlooking the slough of Sawmill Creek. Like 38BU1712, it too is on a small rise of sandy Wando series soils about 50 feet in diameter.

Materials recovered from this site include one Deptford Plain sherd, one Deptford Fabric Impressed sherd, one Irene Complicated Stamped sherd, and one unidentifiable sherd. The collection reveals a diversity similar to 38BU1712, again reflective of several episodes of short-term use. It seems reasonable to speculate that these sites were used because of their proximity to the slough and there higher elevations than the surrounding field.

38BU1714

This is a fairly large site situated at the north end of the field in the central third of the survey tract. At the time of the survey this field was fairly open, exhibiting surface visibility from 25

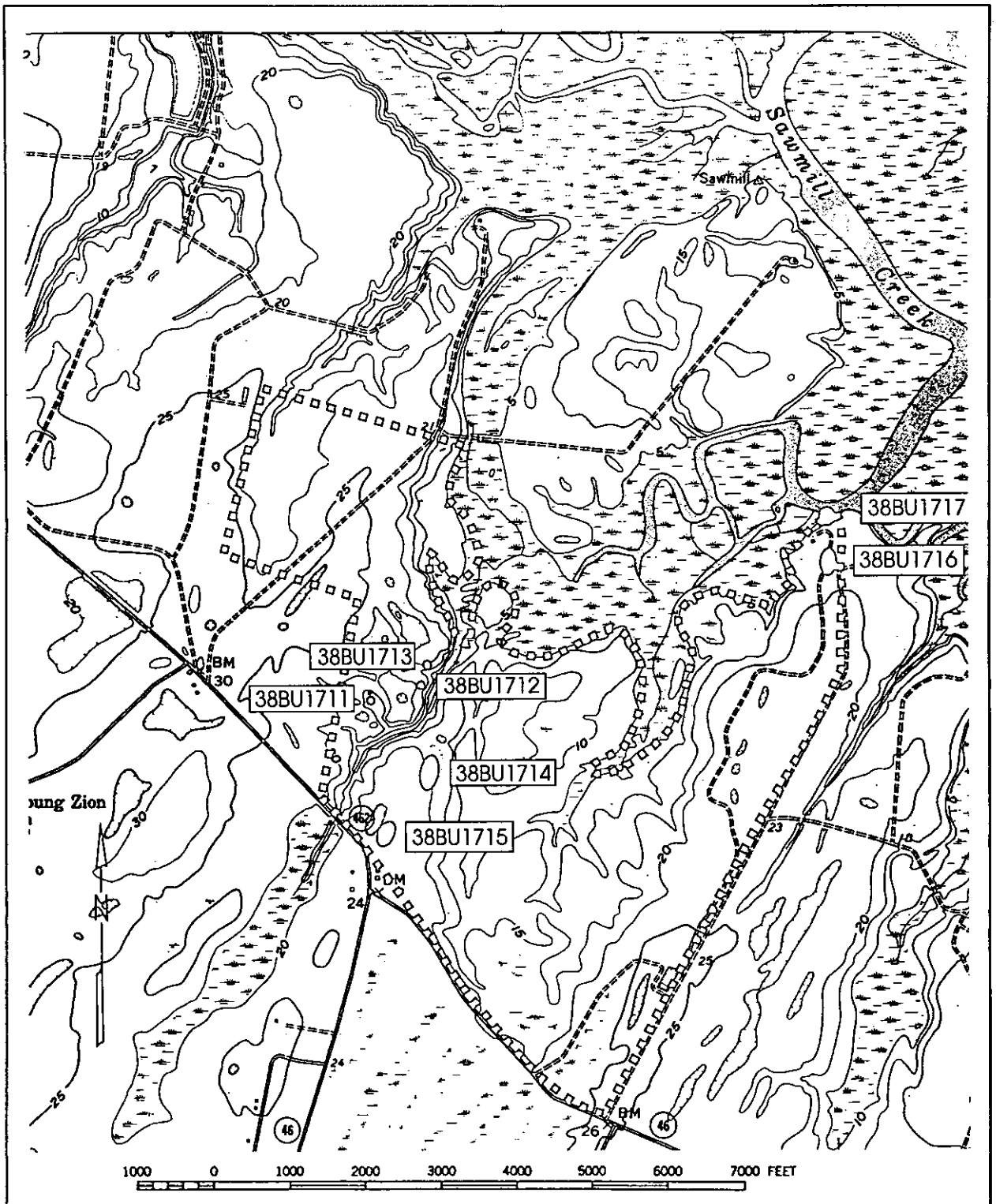

Figure 18. Sites identified during the reconnaissance survey.

to 50%, with the higher visibility associated with a wildlife food plot used by hunters. The central UTM coordinates for the site are E514080 N3569500 and the site measures about 350 feet north-south and 150 feet east-west.

The topography in the field is fairly level and the site exhibits an elevation of about 8 to 10 feet AMSL. There is, however, a pronounced slope to the east, toward another slough of Sawmill Creek and to the west, toward the slough of the creek associated with 38BU1712 and 38BU1713. The soils are well drained Wando sands.

Both prehistoric and historic materials are associated with this site. Prehistoric materials include two Deptford Plain sherds, seven small sherds, and a chert flake. Historic materials include four undecorated whitewares, one undecorated pearlware, one green edged pearlware, one fragment of aqua glass, and one slate fragment. Also present in the field, but not collected are a number of brick and mortar fragments.

Based on the location, the linear orientation, and the diversity of materials, this site may be the Woodward settlement shown on several historic maps, including the 1877 map for the South Carolina Land and Improvement Company (Figure 11). It may also be the earlier Pope settlement. If so, it is possible that additional survey will reveal not only a main plantation settlement, but also the slave settlement associated with the plantation. This is a potentially significant site.

38BU1715

This site is situated immediately west of the entrance road to the plantation in a fallow field which has been plowed within the last season. The central UTM coordinates are E513880 N3569300. The topography in this area is very level, with an elevation of about 20 feet AMSL. Soils associated with this site as not as well drained as those associated with the other sites on the tract and are identified as Seewee sandy loams. Materials were found scattered over an area measuring about 200 feet in diameter. One of the many fingers of Sawmill Creek seems always near virtually every site encountered in the survey and in this instance a slough is found about 500 feet to the west.

Artifacts were fairly dense at this site, in spite of the generally low surface visibility (under 25%). Materials recovered include nine undecorated whitewares, two polychrome stamped whitewares, one white porcelain, one yellowware, one fragment of brown glass, two fragments of blue glass, eight pieces of aqua glass, two fragments of milk glass, four manganese glass fragments, three pieces of clear bottle glass, and two window glass fragments. Also present on this site were abundant fragments of bricks and mortar.

Although this site may represent a portion of the Woodward settlement, the artifacts are more suggestive of an early twentieth century settlement. Consequently, this site likely is the single structure shown on the 1937 highway map (Figure 13), but not shown on the 1920 Okatie topographic map (Figure 12).

38BU1716

This site is found on the Trimbleston Plantation portion of the survey tract, nearly at the end of the road leading to the peninsula. The materials were recovered from the dirt road cut about 600 feet from the end of the road, in an area which is today heavily wooded. Surface visibility away from the road was 0%. The central UTM coordinates for the site are E515700 N3570350.

Topography in the site area is level, with an elevation of about 15 feet AMSL. The soils are Wando sands. Materials were found scattered along nearly 550 feet of the dirt road, although no effort was made to evaluate how far the site extended to the east and west.

Materials recovered from this area include four undecorated whitewares, two blue transfer printed whitewares, one whiteware with a blue applique, one porcelain, one brown stoneware, three fragments of black glass, one fragment of blue glass, and one fragment of aqua glass. Also associated with the scatter of ceramics were occasional fragments of brick, some of them

representing at least a third of a brick in size.

This collection appears consistent for a nineteenth century plantation and the site location is almost identical to that shown on several maps (including Figure 9) for the Stoney settlement. Given the quantity of materials found in the road, it is likely that the site may be very dense. It is likely to be a very significant site, although additional survey is necessary to establish boundaries and isolate individual structure locations.

38BU1717

This site is situated at the end of Trimbleston Road, on high ground overlooking the waters of Sawmill Creek. The location was probably the landing associated with the Stoney settlement, although today the area is dominated by the ruins of a twentieth century oyster cannery. The central UTM coordinates are E515720 N3570480. The elevation is about 15 to 20 feet AMSL and the soils are classified as Wando series, although the peninsula seems to have been enlarged by the dumping of processed oyster shells.

The site consists of the ruins of a timber dock, a trackway to transport the oysters from the boats to the cannery, the cannery building which includes internal fixtures such as the processing counters, and a variety of industrial materials associated with the processing efforts. These remains are found in an area measuring about 150 feet in diameter, although the dumped oysters spread out from this core. Nearby are several buildings which appear to be more recent and probably represent summer homes.

One discussion of oyster factories (where oysters were shucked) and canneries (where they were actually processed and canned) is that by Burn for Daufuskie Island (Burn 1991:429-441). More interest has been devoted to the commercial importance of the industry (see, for example, McKenzie et al. 1980:132-138). The industry came to the area in the early 1890s. Although the depression of the 1930s seriously limited oystering and oyster processing, it continued until pollution in the 1950s was so severe that clean beds were too distant to support the industry. Between 1890 and 1905 as many as 16 steam canneries operated along the lower South Carolina coast. By 1919, however, there were only five canneries in the Charleston area and six in the Beaufort area (McKenzie et al.

Figure 19. Possible lens of shell midden eroding into Sawmill Creek from a high bluff near deep water.

1980:135).

It seems likely that the site on Trimbleston was probably used in the 1940s and 1950s, given the construction techniques. If so, it represents one of the last few in operation in South Carolina. This, however, must be confirmed by additional historic research and supported by oral history. There is, at present, no good context for the evaluation of this type of site. Consequently, considerable historic research will likely be necessary to evaluate 38BU1717.

Other Areas Examined

In addition to the areas where sites were identified, Figure 17 reveals that other areas were also examined. It is appropriate to briefly explain our findings in these areas as well.

We found that the marsh edge for most of the tract was low, typically not over 2 feet above the marsh. No evidence of shell middens were found in these areas, likely because there is not sufficient elevational difference between the "high ground" and the "marsh." In contract, several potential shell middens were found on the Trimbleston tract where the high ground is upwards of 3 to 6 feet above the marsh and water is in closer proximity to the bluff edge. Although these sites were not investigated or recorded, Figure 19 shows one such area.

An effort was also made to examine several inland areas classified as poorly drained. In each case we found that the soils were very poorly drained, that standing water was present in lower areas, that the soils were heavy reduced, and that the topography was generally level, excepting the occasional depressions.

CONCLUSIONS

Nature of the Sites

The range of site types identified by the Crescent Plantation reconnaissance is impressive, including what appear to be short-term prehistoric camps and very long-term historic settlements. The time range is also impressive and spans the period from at least 2000 B.C. to perhaps as late as A.D. 1950.

As was expected based on previous surveys in the project area, this reconnaissance level study yielded firm historical evidence of at least antebellum occupation. There is also evidence, albeit less secure, of at least late eighteenth century occupation. Previous studies to the east and west have also yielded a variety of both prehistoric and historic sites. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that this reconnaissance investigation, consisting of only two person days of study, produced seven archaeological sites. There is little question that additional archaeological study will produce a variety of additional sites.

The sites dominated by prehistoric remains are found primarily on high, well drained soil in relatively close proximity to the marsh edge. At the present time, two primarily prehistoric sites have been identified — both situated on the west edge of a marsh slough. These sites are characterized by relatively high elevations, sand soils, and their proximity to slough environs. Such sites have the potential to address a broad range of potentially significant research questions, including the fundamental issues of settlement and subsistence. In spite of these features, there is legitimate concern regarding their integrity and there is concern that plowing may have completely removed in situ materials, leaving behind only plowed middens dispersed across broad areas.

Additional prehistoric components are also found at sites primarily containing historic remains, emphasizing that some site selection factors were consistently important throughout time. It is likely that prehistoric sites are also found eroding from the high bank of Sawmill Creek.

The sites dominated by historic remains are found slightly further away from the marsh edge, but are still closely associated with well drained soils during the nineteenth century. Most significant of these are those associated with the Woodward and Stoney settlements. These almost certainly began during the early antebellum and were occupied by both master (or overseer) and slave during the period up to the Civil War. Although this area was not held by Union forces, it was close enough to Hilton Head that plantations likely ceased operation during the Civil War and relatively little is known about their postbellum operation.

During the early twentieth century some historic sites begin to be located in areas less well drained, apparently to take advantage of improving road systems. This move may also have taken place to open up additional prime lands to cultivation. This period of tenancy in the Beaufort area is no better understood, with relatively research devoted to integrating both historic documents and historic archaeology. Moreover, one site identified during the reconnaissance documents the area's oyster industry — which has received little previous scholarly attention, in spite of its extraordinary economic and social impact.

Recommendations

Although it is not possible, based on this reconnaissance level study, to make recommendations regarding National Register eligibility, it is possible to report that the study tract does contain both prehistoric and historic remains. At least some of these are likely to be large and potentially complex sites. In addition, there is a strong potential that additional sites will be identified in the project area.

Recommended Historic Documentation

As a result, we recommend that the tract receive thorough historic research. While the current study has likely succeeded in identifying the bulk of the maps available, it is possible that the Direct Tax Commission extended their survey to this area. If so, the National Archives may have some very detailed maps that will add considerable information concerning the features present.

In addition, it is very important that the title for this tract continue to be researched, since that information is essential to the historical context against which the sites are evaluated, as well as the correct interpretation of the archaeological remains. There remain a wealth of potentially significant documentation, including the agricultural and slave schedules, the records dealing with Abandoned Lands, and the records associated with the process of reclaiming these lands. There may also be records providing greater insight on the twentieth century use of the tract. In particular, it is very important that a historical context for the oystering industry be developed. The previous commercial and economic work in this area provides an excellent foundation.

In sum, it is likely that the historic research for this tract will require between one and two weeks. With appropriate, long-range planning the costs can be minimized by dealing with the National Archives records through mail requests. Otherwise, it will be necessary to schedule at least three days in Washington, D.C. to allow time to retrieve significant documents.

Recommended Field Investigations

The archaeological sites identified thus far emphasize the importance of conducting an intensive archaeological survey of the project tract. In addition, the current study, combined with previous research in the area, helps us to evaluate the archaeological potential of different areas. Clearly not all portions of the Crescent tract are equally likely to contain either prehistoric or historic remains.

Figure 20 provides a generalized overview of archaeological potential, showing three levels of archaeological survey. It is very important to emphasize that this is very generally drawn and is intended only to graphically portray the different levels of survey intensity appropriate for the tract.

Areas of high archaeological probability are those which exhibit one or more characteristics:

- well drained soils, typically Wando or occasionally Seewee;
- higher elevations, especially when compared to the immediate surroundings;
- close proximity to marsh or swamp slough environs; and
- marsh edge areas with distinct bluffs and generally closer proximity to water.

These areas are thought to exhibit the highest potential for archaeological remains. In fact, five of the seven sites thus far identified have been found in the areas defined as high probability.

These areas warrant survey using shovel testing at intervals of no more than every 100 feet on transects spaced no further apart than every 100 feet. This approach is most appropriate for wooded areas.

In areas which have been previously cultivated an even better survey approach would be to cultivate the fields and allow them to be rained on. Such surface surveys (assuming there are no buried A horizons, which are not reported for Wando soils) provide a much greater assurance of recovering archaeological sites than traditional shovel testing.

It is likely that many of the sites found using either of these techniques will need to be tested at either closer intervals or through the placement of formal test units. Of greatest concern is the integrity of the plowed prehistoric sites. It may be appropriate, in some cases, to strip off the

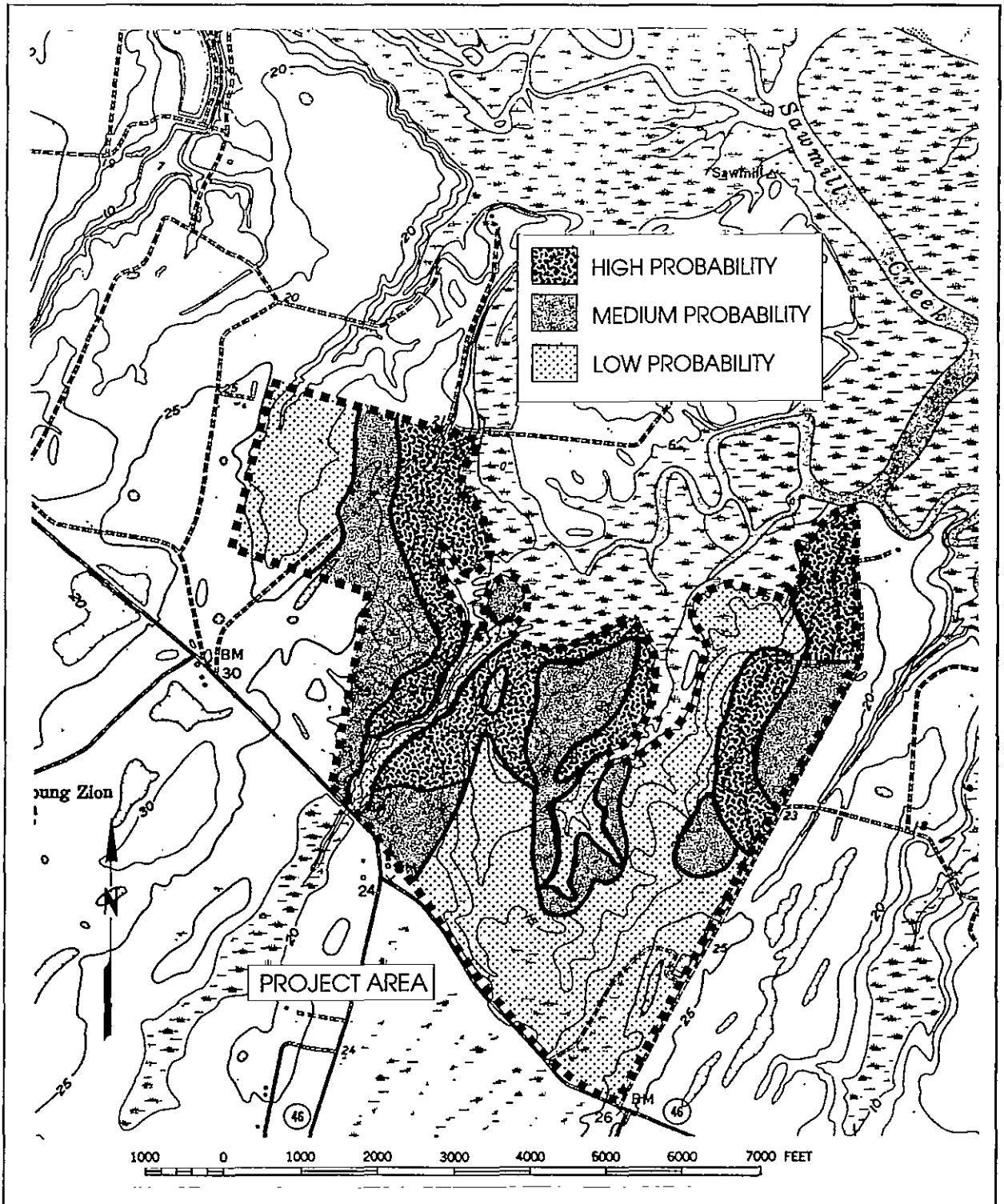

Figure 20. Archaeological probabilities for the study tract.

overlying plowzone to determine if features are still preserved. An alternative approach may include geophysical survey techniques on identified sites, such as either conductivity or resistivity studies. Shell filled pits should be fairly obvious in the sandy matrix using either approach.

Areas of medium archaeological probability are those which exhibit one or more characteristics:

- moderately drained soils, typically Seewee or occasionally Baratari when associated with a slough edge; and
- close proximity to marsh or swamp slough environs; and

These areas are thought to exhibit an intermediate potential for archaeological remains. While five of the seven identified sites were found in high probability areas, the remaining two were found in medium probability areas.

If plowing is a viable option, then these areas are recommended to receive the same level of investigation as high probability areas. The reason for this is that pedestrian surface survey tends to be very quick and effective. It is likely that the areas can be quickly covered with very little effort.

If, however, the areas must be shovel tested, then we recommend that the tests be conducted at 200 foot intervals on transects spaced every 200 feet. A sampling strategy should be developed to provide closer interval testing, as a check against the possibility that this testing may miss smaller, yet potentially significant, sites.

Areas of low archaeological probability are those which exhibit one or more characteristics:

- poorly to very poorly drained soils, typically Baratari, Rosedhue, and Polawana series;
- areas of standing water or which exhibit a water table within the upper 1.0 foot of soil and which exhibit characteristically reduced soils; and
- areas with very low topography, especially relative to nearby areas.

These areas are thought to exhibit a low to very low potential for archaeological remains. Although several such areas were examined during the current reconnaissance level study, no archaeological sites were found. In addition, while shell was frequently found dispersed in the fields at higher elevations, shell was never observed in these lower soils.

Although the likelihood of discovering archaeological sites in these areas is very low, they should still be inspected wherever possible. Therefore, if the woods are adequately open to permit walking transects spaced 200 feet apart, this should be done. In those areas where the vegetation prohibits, or severely hinders, such an approach, we feel confident recommending that no survey be undertaken, with the provision that development activities must cease for any late discoveries.

Cemeteries

Cemeteries are among the most difficult of all sites to identify, even in an intensive survey. We have found no indication of burial grounds on the study tract — none are shown on any of the historic maps or plats, there are none indicated on the soil survey, and there are none indicated on the identified modern historic documents. Nevertheless, that two antebellum plantations (Crescent and Trimbleston) existed in the survey area strongly suggest that African American cemeteries may be present. Slave burial grounds were often associated with plantations and continued to be used in the postbellum.

While we hope that any such burial grounds may be found during an intensive survey, this cannot be assured. As a consequence, development activities must always be especially

careful if bones, gravestones, or other features are found. It is a felony under South Carolina law to disturb burial grounds, even those which are not marked.

Summary

Based on the reconnaissance level investigations, we strongly recommend that if the study tract is to be developed, that an intensive archaeological survey be conducted. Such a study will likely be required by the Beaufort County Planning Department and will certainly be required if any state or federal permits, licenses, or funds are involved. Examples of such state or federal funding would include, but not be limited to, the filling of wetlands, storm water and sewer plans, or OCRM permitting.

The historical research, as previously discussed, will likely require one to two weeks, while the field investigations will require about two weeks. Report production may require four weeks. Consequently, from a planning perspective, cultural resources studies should be allowed at least two months at the survey stage. If sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register are identified additional time should be allotted for either developing green spacing plans for data recovery excavations.

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